Building Bridges through AI:
Fostering India-Africa-France Dialogue
to Advance AI for the Common Good

AI Impact Summit 2026 Pre-event hosted by the AFD Group at its Paris Headquarters

28 January 2026 - 9 AM to 1 PM

**This pre-event aims to reinforce India-Africa-France
cooperation on AI, support the Economic Growth & Social
Good Working Group ahead of the Summit,
and showcase concrete AI for development solutions in
preparation for New Delhi.**

Context

The AI Impact Summit 2026, to be held in **New Delhi, India**, will highlight the tangible impacts of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and its transformative potential, particularly for emerging countries. The Summit is structured around three key priorities or *sutras*: **"People: Human-Centric AI"**, **"Planet: Environmental Responsibility"**, and **"Progress: Equitable Growth"**. These principles are embodied in seven *chakras*-pillars of international cooperation - designed to operationalize these priorities: **Safe and Trusted AI, Human Capital, Science, Resilience, Innovation and Efficiency, Inclusion for Social Empowerment, Democratizing AI Resources, and Economic Growth and Social Good.**

The Summit follows the AI Action Summit held in Paris (6-11 February 2025), in which the **AFD Group** played an active role given its strong engagement in AI cooperation with Global South countries. On that occasion, AFD co-organized, alongside the **Ministry of Digital Economy and Digital Transformation of Togo** and the **French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (MEAE)**, a high-level event entitled *"AI for Development: Solutions for a Sustainable and Inclusive Future"* held on 11 February 2025, as part of the Summit's side events.

These discussions build on growing Euro-African momentum, illustrated by two recent milestones: the Global AI Summit on Africa held in Kigali in April 2025, and the second Mediterranean Forum on Artificial Intelligence (FMIA) organized in Tunis in November 2025. Both events contributed to strengthening a shared vision, partnerships, and concrete cooperation on responsible AI across the continents.

AI Summit Pre-Event in Paris

Building on the AFD Group's cooperation with several African countries on AI, India's ambition to strengthen its partnerships in Africa, and France's upcoming organisation of the **Africa-France Summit** in Nairobi - where AI will be a key theme - a **dedicated pre-event** is proposed in Paris ahead of the AI Impact Summit.

Objectives

This pre-event will serve to align perspectives and prepare the *Economic Growth & Social Good Working Group* for the New Delhi Summit, which will focus on AI as a driver for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This event aims to:

- Foster dialogue between continents
- Showcase French initiatives on AI for development
- Facilitate alignment among key stakeholders on priority AI-for-SDG themes
- Highlight specific needs and solutions from Africa and India

Format for the India-Africa-France Pre-Event

- **Date: Wednesday, 28 January 2026 (9 AM - 1 PM)**
- **On-site (Paris, France) and online conference**

Agenda:

9:00 AM - Registration & Coffee

Introduction

9:30 AM - Opening remarks - by **Rémy Rioux**, Director General at AFD

9:35 AM - Introduction **Éléonore Caroit**, Minister Delegate to the Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs, responsible for Francophonie, International Partnerships, and French Nationals Abroad

9:45 AM - **Clara Chappaz**, French Ambassador for Digital and AI

Part 1: AI for Planet - Toward Responsible and Climate-Ready AI Infrastructures

Chair: Henri Verdier, Director General of the Inria Fondation

10:00 AM - Innovation showcase

Presentation of AI4Dev solutions and industry pitches showcasing collaborations among French, Indian, and African ecosystems, including open-source applications. Priority will be given to start-ups developing AI solutions for climate action, in line with the Summit's priorities.

- **Adja Aminata Cissé Diop**, Director General at Sotilma, Sénégal
- **Gaurav Godhwani**, Executive Director & Co-founder of CivicDataLab

10:20 AM - Panel "AI in Africa: Frugal, Sovereign, and Rooted in Local Realities"

This panel explores frugal and efficient models that work on constrained systems. It will ask how to build sustainable local ecosystems, considering energy-saving alternatives to large models, shared data centers or decentralized edge computing. The panel will also consider the role of renewable energy and diverse funding in making these solutions viable.

Speakers:

- **Karim Beguir**, Co-Founder & CEO at Instadeep
- **Nozha Ben Hajel**, Co-Chair of OECD AI network of experts
- **Ayotunde Coker**, CEO at OADC - WIOCC Group
- **William El Sayed**, Founder's Associate - GTM, Public Sector, Mistral AI

Part 2: AI for People - Empowering the Talents and Governance Foundations of Responsible and Inclusive AI

Chair: Alexandre Mirlesse, French special envoy for AI and new technologies

11:00 AM - Innovation showcase

Presentation of AI4Dev solutions and start-up pitches showcasing collaborations among French, Indian, and African ecosystems. Priority will be given to stakeholders working on social, cultural, and linguistic inclusion within AI systems, particularly in agriculture, healthcare and education.

- **Mabrouk Aib**, Co-Founder & CEO at Amaya AG
- **Haïkel Drine,** Co-Founder & CEO at Afrikanda
- **Jérémy Lachal,** Executive Director at Bibliothèques Sans Frontières (BSF)

11:25 AM - Panel "From Policy to Practice: Enabling Inclusive AI in Emerging Economies"

This session will explore the enabling conditions for inclusive and accessible AI, covering governance, capacity building, data management, and regulatory frameworks, and examine the key stages of digital transformation needed to turn these conditions into concrete action.

It will also emphasize the social, cultural, and linguistic dimensions that are essential for truly inclusive AI systems, mindful of bias and committed to greater equity in access and use.

Speakers:

- **Kathleen Kallot**, CEO of Amini
- **Paulin Melatagia Yonta**, Research Director, Yaoundé University
- **Alpan Raval**, Chief scientist at Wadhwani AI
- **Antoine Tesnière**, Director General at PariSanté Campus
- **Martin Tisné,** Founder and Chair of the Board of Current AI

Part 3: AI for Progress - Strengthening International Cooperation for Inclusive and Sustainable Growth

12:10 PM - Setting the scene: Thomas Melonio, AFD chief economist

Presentation of the AI Investment Potential Index (AIIPI), a public tool to assess countries' AI investment readiness and potential, supporting evidence-based policymaking on AI.

12:20 PM - Panel "Strengthening International Cooperation for Inclusive and Sustainable Growth"

Chair: Jérémie Pellet, Director General at Expertise France.

This panel will explore the conditions and collaborations required for inclusive AI to foster sustainable economic growth, particularly in emerging countries.

Speakers:

- **Lacina Koné**, CEO of Smart Africa
- **Boubacar Roger Thiam**, Director of the Promotion of the Digital Economy and Partnerships (DPENP) at the Ministry of Communication, Telecommunications and Digital Economy of Senegal
- **Yasser Shaker**, CEO of Orange Middle East and Africa
- **Ariane Labat**, Head of Unit for Digital Transformation, Directorate-General for International Partnerships of the European Commission
- **Sunu Engineer**, Senior Scientist, iSPIRT (tbc)

Conclusion

12:50 PM - **HE. Mr. Sanjeev Singla,** Ambassador of India to France and the Principality of Monaco