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Nairobi



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Mattei Plan
for Africa



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Nairobi AI Forum 2026: Accelerating AI Adoption and Impact

Post-Event Coverage and Visibility Report

The **Nairobi AI Forum 2026**, co-hosted by the Governments of **Kenya, Italy** and the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**, convened an influential cohort of global and regional stakeholders over **two days (9–10 February 2026)** to advance AI adoption, infrastructure and inclusive impact across Africa. (aihubfordevelopment.org)

- **# of registrations: 700**
 - % Distribution by sector:
 - University: 40%
 - Africa Private Sector: 23%
 - Innovators: 20%
 - Italian Private Sector: 12%
 - PSAG: 2%
 - ESG: 2%
 - High level invitees: 1%
- **650 attendees** from Africa, Europe and G7 countries attended the forum, including government officials, private sector executives, innovators, financiers, and ecosystem builders. ([UNDP](https://undp.org))
 - Day 2: 500 participants
 - 200 participants attended the morning session on Startups, Capital & Scaling AI on Africa.
 - 150 participants attended “Building AI Skills at scale in Africa” session.
 - 150 participants attended “From AI research to applied Impact in Africa” session.
- **Attended via Zoom**
 - 200
- **Hashtag Analytics #NairobiAIForum**
 - Reach: 1M
 - Mentions online: 83
 - LinkedIn: 55%
 - X (Twitter): 36%
 - Facebook: 3%
 - Instagram: 6%
 - Interactions: 1.3K
- **Op-ed accessed:**
 - Visited: 5000 times
- **Website analytics**
 - Total views for [event webpage](#): 5,000 (1 Feb - 12 Feb)



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- Total [website](#) views overall: 20,000, with 31% of the view attributed to [Nairobi AI Forum 2026](#).
- New user gained: 2,700 since we launch the [Nairobi AI Forum 2026 event webpage](#) (21 Jan)

- **Country Distributed:**
 - Africa – Kenya: 31% of the webpage visit is from Kenya
 - Italy: 6% of the webpage visit is from Italy
 - United States: 14% of the webpage visit is from the US

- **Media Monitoring**
 - Number of media outlets attending: 15
 - Number of media articles and write ups: 20+

- The programme featured **65 speakers and panelists**, representing diverse sectors and geographies including Italy, Africa, the European Union and G7 countries.

- **6 institutional speakers** contributed high-level policy perspectives, underlining strategic commitments from government and multilateral partners, including:
 - **H.E. Vincenzo Del Monaco**, Ambassador of Italy to Kenya and Permanent Representative to UNEP and UN-HABITAT
 - **Ambassador Lorenzo Ortona**, Deputy National Coordinator – Mattei Plan for Africa, Italian Presidency of the Council of Ministers
 - **H.E. Philip Thigo**, Special Envoy on Technology, Republic of Kenya
 - **Mr. Jean-Luc Stalon**, Resident Representative, UNDP Kenya
 - **H.E. Sen. Anna Maria Bernini**, Minister of University and Research, Government of Italy
 - **H.E. Hon. William Kabogo Gitau**, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Information, Communications and the Digital Economy, Government of Kenya
 - **Mr. Ondrej Simek**, Deputy Head of Delegation, Delegation of the European Union to Kenya.



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ANNEX 1:

Snapshot of coverage

<p>Decodes39 How Africa can re-imagine its AI future. The Nairobi Forum An op-ed published in The Standard of Nairobi marks a shift in Italy's Mattei Plan from political framing to concrete implementation. 5 days ago</p> <p>Africa Science News Nairobi AI Forum 2026 Sparks Africa's Leap Toward AI-Driven Jobs and Innovation The two-day Nairobi AI Forum 2026, held on February 9–10, has emerged as a pivotal moment for Africa's artificial intelligence future, unveiling a roadmap... 20 hours ago</p> <p>United Nations Development Programme Nairobi AI Forum 2026 Drives AI Adoption and Impact In line with the Mattei Plan for Africa, the AI Hub for Sustainable Development and Cineca announce 1.5 million Graphic Processing Unit (GPU) hours for 130... 1 day ago</p> <p>Business Insider Africa Rwanda and Kenya position themselves as Africa's AI leaders at global forum Rwanda and Kenya used a global digital policy platform in Kuwait to outline how they are positioning themselves as leaders in Africa's artificial... 1 week ago</p> <p>Agenzia Nova Kenya's Ambassador Del Monaco to Nova: "Italy is focusing on young people and new technologies for shared development." Kenya, Ambassador Del Monaco to Nova: Italy focuses on young people and new technologies for shared development. Read Nova Agency. 1 day ago</p>	<p>Citizen Digital Nairobi AI Forum 2026 backs 130 innovators, targets 45 million AI jobs by 2035 After a two-day summit in Nairobi, the Nairobi AI Forum 2026 announced support for 130 AI innovators across Africa and unveiled an ambitious plan to... 2 days ago</p> <p>ANSA AI forum organized by Italy, Kenya and UNDP closed in Nairobi Ansa English Desk 10 February 2026 - News. (ANSA) - NAIROBI, 10 FEB - The first edition of the Nairobi AI Forum, organized by the Italian government... 2 days ago</p> <p>Facebook Kenya News Agency - KNA 2 days ago</p> <p>MalindiKenya.net Mattei Plan: Italy and Kenya close the technological gap A Nairobi, tra il traffico che non conosce pause e i grattacieli che crescono più in fretta delle... 3 days ago</p> <p>Il Sole 24 ORE Italy and Kenya sign memorandum of understanding on university and research The agreement, signed by Minister Anna Maria Bernini and Kenyan President William Ruto, provides for collaboration in the fields of higher education... 2 days ago</p>
<p>www.standardmedia.co.ke Global South voices can shape artificial intelligence agenda Late in January, Nairobi became a focal point for an important global conversation on the future of artificial intelligence. 2 days ago</p> <p>The Standard How Africa can re-imagine its artificial intelligence future Much has been said about artificial intelligence (AI) in Africa. But the dominant questions are: Will Africa be left behind as countries at the frontier of... 1 week ago</p> <p>The Standard Kenya, Italy hand 120 African startups keys to AI revolution Kenya and Italy have granted computer access to 120 African innovators, positioning Nairobi at the centre of the continent's artificial intelligence... 1 day ago</p> <p>The Standard Kenya, Italy hand 130 African startups keys to AI revolution Kenya and Italy have granted computer access to 120 African innovators, positioning Nairobi at the centre of the continent's artificial intelligence... 1 day ago</p> <p>Decodes39 Italy improves Africa engagement as Minister Bernini visits Kenya Italy is using Kenya to pilot a more operational Africa strategy focused on research, innovation and human capital. The opening of Med-Or Italian... 3 days ago</p> <p>ANSA Italy, Kenya and Undp open forum on artificial intelligence in Nairobi Italy's ambassador to Kenya, Vincenzo Del Monaco, opened together with Kenya's special envoy for technology, Philip Thigo, and the director of the United... 3 days ago</p>	<p>MalindiKenya.net Italian Minister Bernini begins official visit to Kenya today La visita in Kenya del ministro italiano dell'Università e della Ricerca, Anna Maria Bernini, da... 4 days ago</p> <p>CAJ News Africa Momentous investments pledged for Africa at Nairobi AI Forum from MARIA MACHARIA in Nairobi, KenyaKenya BureauNAIROBI, (CAJ News) - THE Nairobi Artificial Intelligence (AI) Forum has concluded with several... 12 hours ago</p> <p>ynews.digital Nairobi AI Forum 2026 Focuses on Scalable, Green AI Infrastructure for Africa The Nairobi AI Forum 2026 brings together governments, innovators, and financiers to accelerate adoption of green, scalable AI infrastructure. 2 days ago</p> <p>Facebook The High Court in Nyeri has deferred plea-taking for Administration Police officer Peter Wamiti, who is accused of fatally shooting Karatina businessman George Gathu, to... 3 days ago</p> <p>TechTrendsKE Interview: Samsung's Product Lead Ryan Mule on The Smartphone as an AI Platform Ryan Mule, Product Manager at Samsung Electronics East Africa, which explores how on-device AI is specifically solving real-world challenges. 1 week ago</p>

High-Level Announcements

During the Forum, **4 major announcements** were launched, signalling strategic acceleration of AI foundations and ecosystem delivery in Africa:

- 1. Compute Access Commitment:** Allocation of **1.5 million GPU hours** through partnerships with **Cineca**, AWS and Microsoft to 130 African innovators to support scalable AI solutions across climate, agriculture, education and language technologies.



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2. **AI 10 Billion Initiative (Co-Design Launch):** A strategic co-design process with the African Development Bank and private sector partners to mobilise up to **US\$10 billion** to generate up to **45 million jobs** across Africa by 2035 via AI infrastructure, capital mobilisation and entrepreneurship pathways. ([UNDP](#))
3. **Harmonic Africa Startup Acceleration Programme:** In partnership with the AI Hub, this programme was unveiled to provide capital, technical assistance and market access for high-growth African AI startups – including an initial **€50 million** investment envelope and an Italian incubator focused on climate tech and digital public infrastructure.
4. **Strategic Public-Private Initiatives:**
 - a. A new **space-enabled AI collaboration** leveraging geospatial data for food security and climate resilience, backed by national and international partners.
 - b. A **cybersecurity readiness call** for African AI startups to bolster secure-by-design capacity, in partnership with Cisco’s training ecosystem.

Outcomes and Strategic Takeaways

- The Forum established a **delivery runway** linking the outcomes from Rome’s AI Hub launch (June 2025) with upcoming high-impact engagements such as the *Italy–Africa Summit* and the *AI Impact Summit* in India, effectively converting high-level commitments into operational pathways. ([UNDP](#))
- Discussions emphasised that **scaling AI adoption** requires embedding AI into organisational core missions and workflows — beyond traditional tech investment — to deliver measurable improvements in productivity, jobs and service outcomes throughout development sectors. ([UNDP](#))

Annex 2: Social Media Links

Media	Link
Ambassador Philip Thigo	https://www.linkedin.com/posts/philip-thigo_nairobi-ai-forum-2026-media-release-activity-7426994931560493058-tng_/?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_ios&rcm=ACoAAABqGHEBI1ihTEzZFO5mKV7FASwYO_aS9dM
ANSA	https://www.ansa.it/english/news/news_from_embassies/2026/02/10/ai-forum-organized-by-italy-kenya-and-undp-closed-in-nairobi_be28ae44-0e99-4cba-bb38-56350b3ea039.html
CGTN	https://x.com/cgtnafrica/status/2021140385620222332?s=48 https://youtu.be/sFwGvL_xG0U?si=7fy9Em8LTeWAqO6h
Il Sole 24 Ore	https://en.ilsole24ore.com/art/italy-and-kenya-sign-memorandum-of-understanding-university-and-research-AIKFBnKB
Lamberto Moruzzi	https://www.linkedin.com/posts/lamberto-moruzzi-5123aa167_africa-kenya-pianomattei-activity-7427120157388324864-Md2X/?utm_medium=ios_app&rcm=ACoAAce_RF4BcO4x2KA0VQohkgbjOX4Gh1rU0yw&utm_source=social_share_send&utm_campaign=whatsapp
MIMIT	https://x.com/mimit_gov/status/2021261387213730136?s=20
MIMIT	https://www.linkedin.com/posts/ministero-sviluppo-economico_aihbnairobiaforum-italia-activity-7427029250580303873-OHLK/?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop&rcm=ACoAABZhUWsBif7TVvmRthqN4990PoTWciAV6O0
MIMIT	https://www.facebook.com/100064559988128/posts/1353148516847135/?mibextid=wwXlfr&rdid=QtEhxMNC LGb4PNIW
MIMIT	https://www.mimit.gov.it/en/media-tools/news/nairobi-ai-forum-2026-drives-ai-adoption-and-impact



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MIMIT	https://www.mimit.gov.it/it/notizie-stampa/lai-hub-protagonista-del-nairobi-ai-forum-organizzato-da-italia-kenya-e-undp-annunciati-4-protocolli-dintesa
Italian Embassy in Nairobi	https://ambnairobi.esteri.it/en/news/dall_ambasciata/2026/02/italia-kenya-e-undp-aprono-il-forum-sullintelligenza-artificiale-a-nairobi/
United Nations Information Service in Nairobi	https://x.com/unisnairobi/status/2021244815082405962?s=12
LinkedIn Posts (UNDP-Kenya)	https://www.linkedin.com/posts/undpkenya_ai-africa-nairobi-ai-forum-activity-7427252079896891393-8ud8... https://www.linkedin.com/posts/undpkenya_nairobi-ai-forum-africaninnovation-ai-for-good-activity-742691... https://www.linkedin.com/posts/undpkenya_nextgen-nairobi-ai-forum-ai-hub-for-development-activity-742655... https://www.linkedin.com/posts/undpkenya_nairobi-ai-forum-ai-hub-for-development-activity... https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7425069449176678400 https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7424793990505455618
Post press release: MIMIT	https://www.mimit.gov.it/en/media-tools/news/nairobi-ai-forum-2026-drives-ai-adoption-and-impact
X – UNDP Kenya	https://x.com/UNDPKenya/status/2021485827281371452 https://x.com/UNDPKenya/status/2021152984780915033https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.undp.org%2Fstatus%2F2021152984780915033&data=05%7C02%7Cxiuzhen.li%40undp.org%7Cc25a750ab2e8477a25ba08de696d1d42%7Cb3e5db5e2944483799f57488ace54319%7C0%7C0%7C639064114537202248%7CUnknown%7CTWFpGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiilwLjAuMDAwMClslAioiJXaW4zMilslkFOljoiTWFpbiIsldUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=l%2Bh%2BeLicNZW2bgtZ9QKfFkZlaiCQrFgpUF4dv6lvZxE%3D&reserved=0 https://x.com/UNDPKenya/status/2020791820456727040https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.undp.org%2Fstatus%2F2020791820456727040&data=05%7C02%7Cxiuzhen.li%40undp.org%7Cc25a750ab2e8477a25ba08de696d1d42%7Cb3e5db5e2944483799f57488ace54319%7C0%7C0%7C639064114537256050%7CUnknown%7CTWFpGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiilwLjAuMDAwMClslAioiJXaW4zMilslkFOljoiTWFpbiIsldUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=ll7a9KVCJ2yTHjvdTYy412D6rfkWIFA8sy5XRsdR9Kk%3D&reserved=0 https://x.com/UNDPKenya/status/2020779878367293455https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.undp.org%2Fstatus%2F2020779878367293455&data=05%7C02%7Cxiuzhen.li%40undp.org%7Cc25a750ab2e8477a25ba08de696d1d42%7Cb3e5db5e2944483799f57488ace54319%7C0%7C0%7C639064114537303493%7CUnknown%7CTWFpGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiilwLjAuMDAwMClslAioiJXaW4zMilslkFOljoiTWFpbiIsldUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=eXDpN1DnwsMh8W9UO1wFEdlku7X3B2oiHkanYeSETZQ%3D&reserved=0 https://x.com/UNDPKenya/status/2020716949575971090https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.undp.org%2Fstatus%2F2020716949575971090&data=05%7C02%7Cxiuzhen.li%4



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	<p>0undp.org%7Cc25a750ab2e8477a25ba08de696d1d42%7Cb3e5db5e2944483799f57488ace54319%7C0%7C0%7C639064114537364988%7CUnkown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiilwLjAuMDAwMCIsIiAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOljoiTWFpbCIsIldUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=uWaVDfqP1bb0IGfIHUmlkzX92FfkMPNdluMZdlj3tv8%3D&reserved=0 https://x.com/UNDPKenya/status/2019303368716411086 https://x.com/UNDPKenya/status/2019303368716411086</p>
Op-ed (pre-event)	<p>https://www.standardmedia.co.ke/amp/opinion/article/2001540091/how-africa-can-re-imagine-its-artifi...</p>