

HC's Speech during AI Summit Pre-event

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Representatives from the Government of Kenya

Distinguished participants, colleagues and friends

Good Morning! Namaskar! Jambo!

Let me first and foremost thank the co-hosts for today's event - Office of the Special Envoy, Wadhvani AI, Microsoft Kenya, UNDP, Qhala and PATH – and particularly Wadhvani AI for coming up with the idea of convening this round-table. Today's event brings us together for a deep-dive on a subject of extreme contemporary relevance, one that is rapidly changing the world-view of things around us.

Friends,

2. AI today stands at the threshold of fundamentally reshaping human civilization, pushing the boundaries of what we can achieve. This technological revolution opens unprecedented opportunities for advancements across every domain of human endeavor, while profoundly challenging the very foundations of society in an increasingly complex and evolving geopolitical order. For developing countries, AI offers an unprecedented opportunity to leapfrog traditional developmental pathways. The multi-modal and multi-lingual capabilities of AI create new possibilities through which access to benefits can be made available at scale. As a result, AI is seen not merely as a technological advancement but as a strategic tool to enable inclusive growth and expand access to opportunities that have historically been out of reach for large segments of the population. Simultaneously, AI's rapid proliferation across society is creating new challenges that demand urgent attention: disrupting traditional employment patterns, exacerbating existing biases, and driving exponential increases in energy consumption. These developments underscore the urgent need to move beyond aspirational frameworks toward concrete, measurable impact that addresses both AI's promise and its perils.

3. Recognizing this transformative potential, the past four years have witnessed a remarkable surge in multilateral initiatives dedicated to harnessing AI's potential

responsibly and equitably. From the G20 AI Principles to the UN and Global Partnership on AI (GPAI) Resolutions on AI, the African Declaration on AI, and most recently, the Hamburg Declaration on Responsible AI, these efforts reflect unprecedented international recognition that AI's transformative impact transcends borders and requires coordinated global action. However, despite these high-level commitments, a fundamental gap persists between global aspirations and the reality on the ground. The Global AI Divide continues to widen, with AI resources and capabilities concentrated among select nations and corporations. This concentration fundamentally limits the development of social, cultural, and linguistically contextual AI solutions, constraining AI's potential to accelerate progress toward our collective development goals, especially for the Global South.

4. Building on the momentum of leading international forums such as the UK AI Safety Summit, the AI Seoul Summit, the France AI Action Summit, and the Global AI Summit on Africa, the convening of the India AI Impact Summit marks a critical inflection point. It is expected to strengthen existing multilateral initiatives while advancing new priorities, deliverables, and cooperative frameworks.

5. Let me take this opportunity to give you a sense of the forthcoming AI Impact Summit in India. It will be anchored on 3 foundational pillars known as 'Sutras' – a Sanskrit term meaning guiding principles. These 3 Sutras are People, Planet and Progress. The first Sutra of 'People' affirms that technology must remain human-centred, advance people-first development while upholding safety, trust and shared benefit. The second Sutra of 'Planet' calls for AI that advances innovation responsibly by reducing its resource footprint while accelerating climate resilience and environmental protection. The 3rd Sutra of Progress envisages AI as an engine for inclusive growth i.e democratizing key AI resources and applying AI to accelerate socio-economic progress across sectors such as health, education, agriculture and governance.

6. Building upon these three foundational Sutras, the deliberations at the AI Impact Summit will be organized around seven interconnected Chakras that translate the broader principles of People, Planet, and Progress into concrete areas of action through international collaboration:

- Human Capital
- Inclusion for Social Empowerment
- Safe and Trusted AI
- Resilience, Innovation and Efficiency

- Science
- Democratizing AOI Resources – of which Kenya is a Co-Chair
- AI for Economic Growth and Social Good

7. Each Chakra represents a distinct yet interconnected sphere of multilateral engagement through which the transformative potential of AI can be harnessed to deliver tangible benefits aligned with the three Sutras. Together, they offer a comprehensive framework that enables countries, international organizations, and stakeholders to coordinate AI deployment strategies that enable the maximization of collective benefits while still addressing shared challenges.

8. I look forward to today's discussions on AI anchored around the 3 Sutras and the 7 Chakras with the hope that Nairobi's voice carries forward to the India AI Impact Summit 2026.

Thank you once again to all of you for joining us today.