

CONCEPT NOTE

Workshop on Gender and AI

AI Action Summit, 10th February 2025

At the AI Action Summit, France aims to make gender a cross-cutting priority. To this end, the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs has established a “Gender and AI Advisory Group” comprising internationally recognised experts on the intersection of gender and AI. This advisory group intends to serve as a consultation platform for integrating gender perspectives across all five working groups, and propose concrete deliverables on gender and AI.

Drawing on the work of this expert advisory group, the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs is proposing a dedicated panel on gender and AI at the AI Action Summit. This panel will address gender biases in artificial intelligence, particularly within datasets and algorithms and their broader impacts on inequalities, human rights, and democracy at large. It aims to foster dialogue among panellists and the audience to reimagine approaches to shaping AI.

With the rapid digital transformation of our societies, AI offers a new set of opportunities to advance the rights of women and girls and promote gender equality. However, it also introduces a distinct set of challenges and risks, mirroring existing gender biases and inequalities. While AI embodies a strong driver of innovation and progress, these advances could further reach their full potential if AI is designed, developed, and deployed on a human rights-based approach, with gender considerations at its core.

As of today, only 22% of AI professionals are women. This significant underrepresentation, particularly affecting global majority countries, increases the risk of AI systems perpetuating gender biases and harmful outcomes. Generative AI models, often trained on “uncleaned” and historically biased and discriminatory datasets, reproduce and amplify stereotypes with tangible consequences, ranging from discriminatory recruitment practices to highly inadequate medical treatment for women. Moreover, the lack of “safety-by-design” measures in AI models further exacerbates specific risks women face: 96% of deepfakes available online are pornographic, and 99% of these target women.

While the AI Action Summit aims to promote AI for the public interest and based on a human rights approach, why and in what ways could we include women and girls? Whether in the daily use of AI models and systems or in multilateral forums and AI governance, how can we address a human-rights based approach that also includes women and girls? And why is it now necessary to do so?

Workshop

A call to rethink AI: why gender equality and human rights now matter more than ever?

Date and time: 10/02/2025, 3:45-4:30 PM

Location: Workshop, Room Alexander III, Grand Palais

Duration: 45 minutes

Film – 2 min (3:45 – 3:47 PM)

Introduction – 5 min (3:47 – 3:52 PM)

- Hanne Juncher, Director of Security, Integrity and Rule of Law and AI Coordinator, Council of Europe.

Overview and perspectives – 20 min (3:52 – 4:12PM)

- Amal El Fallah Seghrouchni, Minister for Digital Transition and Administrative Reforms, Kingdom of Morocco,
- Logi Einarsson, Minister of Culture, Innovation and Higher Education (including AI), Iceland,
- Meredith Whittaker, President of the Signal Foundation and co-founder of the AI Now Institute,
- Susan Hendrickson, President and CEO of Human Rights First.

Presentation of the Gender & AI Advisory Group deliverables – 6 min (4:12 – 4:18PM)

- o Alessandra Sala, Co-Chair of UNESCO's Women4EthicalAI Group (3 min)
- o Cristina Lunghi, Founder of ARBORUS (3 min)

Q&A – Brainstorming – 12 min (4:18 – 4:30PM)

Moderator: *Ambassador Delphine O, French Ministry of Europe and Foreign affairs, France*