

DataScientia Symposium 2026

Theme: Diversity-Aware Sovereign AI

22nd - 24th July 2026

Programme Details
Tentative/Final

© 2026 DataScientia – All rights reserved



Table of Contents

Overview	3
• Day 1 (22 July) – Diversity-aware AI	3
• Day 2 (23 July) – Diversity-aware sovereign AI for Africa (Policy & Regional Perspective)	3
• Day 3 (24 July) – The DataScientia Initiative (Collaboration & Action)	3
• Day 4 (25 July) – Social Program	3
Programme Outline	5
DAY 1 - 22.07.2026 OPEN TO PUBLIC	5
Opening Ceremony	5
- Day 1 -	
Workshop on Diversity-aware AI	6
DAY 2 - 23.07.2026 OPEN TO PUBLIC	8
Day 2 – Morning	
Workshop on “Diversity-aware Sovereign AI for Africa”	8
Day 2 – Afternoon	
Parallel Sessions	9
DAY 3 - 24.07.2026 INVITATIONS ONLY	12
The “DataScientia Initiative” workshop	12
*Panel: Diversity-aware Sovereign AI - a manifesto	14
Appendix A	15
Appendix B	20



Overview

The **DataScientia Symposium 2026**, to be hosted in South Africa at Durban University of Technology (DUT), will take place **from 22 to 24 July 2026**, followed by a dedicated day of social and networking activities on 25 July. The event marks a significant step in advancing a global dialogue on **Diversity-aware Sovereign AI**; an approach to artificial intelligence that respects cultural diversity, local knowledge, and data autonomy across regions and communities.

Bringing together leading researchers, policymakers, industry experts, and international organizations, the meeting is designed as a **multi-day collaborative platform** combining scientific exchange, policy dialogue, and strategic co-creation. Participants will engage in a dynamic program of talks, workshops, and discussions aimed at shaping the future of inclusive and culturally aware AI systems.

The event will open with an **Opening Ceremony at DUT**, setting the stage for three thematic workshops:

- **Day 1 (22 July) – Diversity-aware AI**

The goal of this workshop is to provide a high level overview, via survey talks, and case studies, of the **state of the art in Diversity-aware AI**, problems and solutions, across the main diverse application domains and case studies across diverse cultures and languages. Talks will present cutting-edge research and interdisciplinary approaches to building AI systems.

- **Day 2 (23 July) – Diversity-aware sovereign AI for Africa (Policy & Regional Perspective)**

Building on the scientific foundations of the first workshop, this workshop will shift toward **policy, governance, and regional implementation**, with a particular focus on South Africa and the broader African landscape. Speakers will include representatives from governments, academia, and international bodies, offering insights into current initiatives and strategic priorities. The session will conclude with a multi-stakeholder panel discussion addressing pathways toward African leadership in Diversity-aware sovereign AI.

- **Day 3 (24 July) – The DataScientia Initiative (Collaboration & Action)**

The final day is dedicated to the DataScientia Initiative, focusing on its core pillars: **community building** towards **shared information, education, research, and innovation**. The participants will actively contribute to shaping ongoing and future activities, fostering partnerships, and defining concrete actions for collaboration at both regional and global levels. The session will conclude with a panel Q/A section where the participants will discuss difficulties, open problems, and concrete ways of how to proceed.

- **Day 4 (25 July) – Social Program**

The meeting will conclude on **25 July** with a **social program**, offering participants the opportunity to experience the richness of beautiful South Africa while strengthening informal connections and fostering long-term international collaboration.





A Manifesto for Diversity-aware Sovereign AI for Africa

A central outcome of the event will be the co-creation of a Manifesto on diversity-aware sovereign AI, developed through structured contributions from leading researchers, senior policymakers, institutional representatives, and international partners. The manifesto will be conceived not as a declarative statement, but as an **evidence-informed and action-oriented framework**, grounded in the discussions and outputs of the meeting.

Its development will draw on the three core pillars of the program: the **scientific evidence presented during Day 1**, capturing the state of the art and key research challenges; the **policy and governance perspectives of Day 2**, reflecting regulatory approaches, public sector priorities, and international cooperation efforts, including contributions from institutions such as the European Commission and African governmental bodies; and the **implementation-oriented work of Day 3**, translating these insights into operational priorities across capacity building, data governance, education, and innovation.

To ensure continuity and impact beyond the event, the manifesto will be accompanied by **concrete follow-up mechanisms**, including the establishment of thematic working groups, the identification of pilot initiatives and joint projects, and its integration into the ongoing activities of the DataScientia Initiative across research, education, and innovation. In this sense, the meeting is designed not only as a forum for exchange, but as a **mechanism for coordination and alignment**, inviting participants to actively contribute to shaping both the conceptual foundations and the practical trajectory of Sovereign AI in Africa and globally.



Programme Outline

DAY 1 – 22.07.2026 | OPEN TO PUBLIC

Opening Ceremony			
T1	08:00	Registration for the Event	1 hour
T2	09:00	Opening Ceremony	45 min
T3	09:45	Introduction to the Workshop Theme <i>By Fausto Giunchiglia</i>	15 min
	10:00	Coffee Break	15 min

Workshop on Diversity Aware AI - Purpose and Structure

The goal of the first day is to bring together speakers from different communities (e.g., AI, linguistics, anthropology, design), as well as participants with diverse backgrounds, even if from the same research area, e.g., AI. The goal for each speaker will be to provide a broad overview of the state of the art while also placing our work in a wider context. The key objective is to facilitate the development of an interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary understanding of the issues being discussed. There is a need to present a holistic and well-integrated perspective on your work.

As from the title of the event, "Diversity-aware Sovereign AI," and its location in Durban, South Africa, the speakers have been selected, to the best of our ability, to cover the various issues connected to these themes. The first day is primarily focused on the scientific aspects. However, it has also been designed to lay the groundwork for the discussions that will take place on the second and third days, whose main focus will be on how to develop sovereign, diversity-aware AI in Africa. This is also linked to the plan of producing, as a possible outcome of this three-day event, a manifesto paper on the development of "diversity-aware sovereign AI in Africa".

Note that some talk titles are tentative and will be confirmed by the respective presenter. denotes confirmation from the speaker; including talk title and abstract.





- Day 1 - Workshop on Diversity-aware AI					
Morning Session AI for X Session Chair: Prof Sunday Ojo					
T4 ✓	10:15	Capturing patient diversity across molecular and clinical phenotypes with foundation models <i>[Ai for Health]</i>	Valentina Giunchiglia	25+5	Imperial College London, Harvard University
T5 ✓	10:45	Accelerating scientific discovery with agentic AI <i>[Ai for science]</i>	Owen Queen	25+5	Dept. of Computer Science, Stanford University
T6	11:15	A Large Lexical Database on Language Diversity	Gabor Bella	25+5	IMT – Atlantique
T7	11:45	Diversity-aware AI	Davide Cavicchini	25+5	University of Trento
	12:15	Lunch Break		1 hour 15 min	ALL
	13:30	DUT Lab Facilities Tour		1 hour 30 min	ALL
Afternoon Session Diversity-aware AI (a) Session Chair: Valentina Giunchiglia					
T8 ✓	15:00	Language Diversity, Dialectical Pluralism and Grassroot Digital Technologies	Professor Aimé Sègla	25+5	University of Abomey-Calavi
T9	15:30	Language diversity – a linguistic point of view	Prof Paul Oye Taiwo	25+5	University of Ibadan
T10 ✓	16:00	AI design and knowledge diversity – potentials, conundrums and research questions	Gertraud Koch	25+5	University of Hamburg
T11 ✓	16:30	Co-Designing for Pluriversal AI	Rachel Charlotte Smith	25+5	Aarhus University
	17:00	Coffee Break		20 min	ALL



Afternoon Session Diversity-aware AI (b) <i>Session Chair: Davide Cavicchini</i>					
T12 ✓	17:20	Community-Centred Priorities for Artificial Intelligence in Africa	Rachel Oluwatuyi & Jasmine Johnson-Mazwi	25+5	University of Cape Town
T13 ✓	17:50	Diversity-aware Word Sense disambiguation model for South African Languages- A case study of Sesotho sa Leboa	Dr Daniel Masethe	25+5	Tshwane University of Technology
T14 ✓	18:20	Diversity-aware Data Collection for South African languages Word Sense Disambiguation-enhanced Machine Translation - A Case study of English-Setswana Machine Translation	Dr Tebatso Moape	25+5	University of South Africa
	18:50	DAY END			



DAY 2 – 23.07.2026 | OPEN TO PUBLIC

Workshop on Diversity-aware Sovereign AI for Africa - Purpose and Structure

The goal of the second day will be to provide a broad overview of the different dimensions of the subject matter of Diversity-Aware Sovereign for Africa (DASAI4Africa), while also placing our views in a wider context. The key objective is to facilitate the development of an interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary understanding of the issues around DASAI4Africa being discussed. The audience (now there are more than one hundred people signed up) will include people from different disciplines, as well as participants with more general backgrounds. Therefore, there is a need to present a holistic and well-integrated perspective on the DASAI4Africa subject matter.

The second point relates to what lies behind the DataScientia event theme, “Diversity-aware Sovereign AI (DASAI). The DASAI scientific foundation and global perspective is the primary focus of Day 1 of the event, while Day 2 zooms-in on the African context of DASAI. The Day 2 programme is deliberately designed to logically build upon the Day 1 programme, by critically examining some contextual issues, challenges and opportunities of developing DASAI in the African context. It has also been designed as a precursor to the DASAI development practical solution-focused DataScientia Initiative, scheduled for Day 3. The Day 2 programme is also linked to the plan of producing, as a possible outcome of this three-day event, a manifesto paper on the development of “diversity-aware sovereign AI in Africa”.

Day 2 – Morning Workshop on “Diversity-aware Sovereign AI for Africa”					
Morning Session (a) Session Chair: { Dr Robyn Thompson}					
	08:50	WELCOME	Prof Oludayo Olugbara	10	Durban University of Technology
T16 ✓	09:00	Diversity-aware Sovereign AI for Africa in Perspective	Prof Sunday Ojo	25+5	Durban University of Technology
T17	09:30	African Diversity-aware Sovereign AI: Higher Education Perspective	Prof Oludayo Olugbara	25+5	Durban University of Technology
T18 ✓	10:00	African Diversity-aware Sovereign AI: Socio-Ethno-Linguistics of African Languages Diversity	Prof Moufoutaou Adjéran	25+5	University of Abomey-Calavi, Benin Republic
	10:30	Coffee Break		20 min	ALL



Morning Session (b) <i>Session Chair: { Prof Marion Adebiji }</i>					
T19	10:50	Who Owns AI?- An African Thought	Prof Pius Owolawi	25+5	Tshwane University of Technology
T20	11:20	From Data to Value: Rethinking Sovereign AI in Africa	Wayne Moodaley	25+5	University of Cape Town
T21	11:50	“Chinese + AI” Training in Africa: From Language Bridge to Citizen-Generated Data for Person-Centric AI.	Lin Wu	25+5	Confucius Institute, DUT
	12:20	Lunch Break		1 hour	ALL

The afternoon program will feature **two concurrent activities: a Dialogue Forum and a Tutorial Session.** The specific activities within each session are detailed below.

Day 2 – Afternoon Parallel Sessions					
Session 1 Tutorial: Lexical semantics for diversity-aware sovereign AI <i>Facilitator: Dr Hadi Khalilia, PTU</i> <i>Coordinators: Dr Tebatso Moape, UNISA, Dr Sibusiso Dlamini, DUT, Mr Dira Thokwane, TUT, Dr. Mosima Masethe, SMU, Ms Lindelweyizwe Manqele, DUT, Mr Freedom Khubisa, DUT, Mr Tosin Akindele</i>					
1	10:00	Welcome	Dr Sibusiso Dlamini	5 mins	DUT
2	10:05	Tutorial Rationale	Dr Tebatso Moape	10 mins	UNISA
3	10:15	Tutorial Overview	Dr Hadi Khalilia	15 mins	Palestine Technical University (PTU)
4	10:30	The Universal Knowledge Core (UKC) organization	Hadi Khalilia	1 hour	PTU
5	11:30	Applications of the Universal Knowledge Core / UKC in Practice: Applications for Language Technologies and LLMs	Hadi Khalilia	1 hour	PTU
6	12:30	Coffee/Lunch Break		1 hour	ALL



		Practical Sessions	Lecturer / Coordinators / Trainees		
7	13:30	Hands-on Introduction to UKC Resource Collection using South African Languages	Coordinators / Trainees	1 hour	ALL
8	14:30	Collaborative UKC Population Exercise and Inter-Evaluator Validation	Coordinators / Trainees	1 hour	ALL
9	15:30	Review and Way Forward	Lecturer / Coordinators / Trainees	30 mins	ALL
Session 2 Diversity-Aware Sovereign AI (DASAI) Dialogue Forum Session <i>Session Chair: Dr Oyeniya Akeem Alimi</i>					
1	14:00	Introduction to to the Dialogue Forum Session	Prof Sunday Ojo	30 min	Durban University of Technology
2	14:30	Break Away Dialogue Sessions (see details in Appendix A)	Group Facilitator / Rappertoire (See Appendix A)	1 hour 30 min	ALL
		Group 1: Ethno-Linguistic (Cultural and Linguistic) Inclusivity (ELI):	Prof Moufoutaou Adjéran / Dr Hlaudi Masethe		UACi, Benin / TUT South Africa
		Group 2: Local Data Sovereignty (LDS)	Dr Dimane Mpoeleng / Ms Rachel Oluwatuyi		BIUST, Botswana/ UCT, South Africa
		Group 3: Infrastructure and Compute Control(ICC):	Prof Yanchun Liang / Ms Jasmine Mazwi		ZCST, China/ UCT, South Africa
		Group 4: Open-Modular Model Sovereignty (OMMS):	Prof Marion Adebisi / Dr Robyn Thompsoni		DUT, South Africa
		Group 5: Indigenous Expertise (Talent) Development and Community Governance (IEDCG)	Prof Pius Owolawi Mr. Wonder Ndlovu		TUT, South Africa/ WITS, South Africa
		Group 6: Social Management of AI Technologies and Systems (SMAITS)	Dr. Tebogo Gumedé-Mazwai, Prof Mammo Muchie		,HSRC, South Africa/ GU, Ethiopia
		Group 7: Sustainable Equitable Strategic Partnership Building (SESPB):	Prof Dalin Li / Prof Timothy Adeliyi		ZCST, China/ UP, South Africa



		Group 8: DASAI4Africa Business Model (BM)	Dr Wayne Moodaley / Prof Olive Stumke		UCT, South Africa/ DUT, South Africa
	16:00	Coffee Break		30 min	ALL
3	16:30	Group Reportings	Group Facilitator / Repertoire	1 hour 30 min	ALL
4	18:00	Rounding Up	Prof Sunday Ojo	30 mins	Durban University of Technology
	18:30	DAY END			

**DAY 3 – 24.07.2026 | INVITATIONS ONLY****Workshop on The DataScientia Initiative - Purpose and Structure**

The third day is dedicated to the future development of the DataScientia Initiative and serves as a collaborative working session for current and prospective partners. Building on the scientific foundations of Day 1 and the policy discussions of Day 2, the focus shifts towards concrete actions, partnerships, and long-term sustainability. The programme will present the progress achieved over the past year across DataScientia's core areas of activity—Knowledge Commons, Education, Research, and Innovation—as well as the collaboration models and infrastructure that support them.

The day will provide an opportunity to discuss how new partners can join and contribute to the initiative, explore fundraising and sustainability strategies, and strengthen collaboration across institutions and regions. Through presentations, discussions, and a concluding panel, participants will help define priorities for the coming years and identify practical pathways for advancing Diversity-aware Sovereign AI in Africa and beyond. The overall objective is to transform the ideas and relationships developed throughout the symposium into a coordinated and impactful programme of action.

The “DataScientia Initiative” workshop					
T1	08:50	WELCOME	Fausto Giunchiglia	10	University of Trento
T2	09:00	DataScientia: Towards Diversity-aware Sovereign AI	Fausto Giunchiglia	30	University of Trento
T3	09:30	The DataScientia Joint labs collaboration model and experiences { ZCST, DUT }	Li Zi	30	Zhuhai College of Science and Technology
	10:00	Coffee Break		20 min	ALL
T4	10:20	Institutional Introductions and Contribution Mapping { list all current + new participant institutes }	ALL	1 hour	ALL Participating Institutions
Knowledge Commons Creating, Sharing and Publishing Knowledge					
T5	11:20	From local knowledge to global knowledge commons: Shared content repository, Publishing strategy { UNITN, DUT }	Freedom Khubisa, Lindelweyizizwe Manqele, Mayukh	40	Durban University of Technology



	12:00	Lunch	1 hour	ALL	
Education MOOCs, Joint curricula, Student exchanges, Educational resources					
T6	13:00	Building inclusive AI education across cultures and languages { UNITN, OUC, JLU, NUM, ZCST, ABAI }	Matteo Busso, Rui, Stella, Zhanat Nurbekova	50	University of Trento
Research Citizen science projects: Language resources and Personal Data collection(s)					
T7	13:50	Language and Personal Data { MAK, UNITN, NUM, JLU, IMT, TUT, PTUK, AIUB }	Michael Kizito, Hadi Khalilia	40	Makerere University / Palestine Technical University – Kadoorie
Innovation AI Tools and Competitions					
T8.1	14:30	Data Exploitation for Impact: Data challenges and beyond	Andrea Bontempelli	20	University of Trento
T8.2	14:50	Data Exploitation for Impact: The SmartCampus App	Li Dalin	20	Zhuhai College of Science and Technology
	15:10	Coffee Break	20 min	ALL	
Fund Raising					
T9	15:30	Building Sustainable Partnerships and Funding : Funding task force, Priority funding calls, Joint proposals, Expansion roadmap { UNITN, DUT, NUM, ABAI, OUC, MAK, PTUK, APODISSI, IMT }	Margherita Trestini	40	Apodissi
DataScientia in Action					
T10	16:10	The DataScientia community and Intermediary	Ali hamza	45+5	University of Trento



T11 ✔	17:00	Disseminating DataScientia for Impact: How to Join?	Margherita Trestini	30	Apodissi
T12 ✔	17:00	*Panel Discussion - DataScientia: towards Diversity-aware Sovereign AI	Fausto Giunchiglia	1 hour	University of Trento
	18:00	DAY END			

*Panel: Diversity-aware Sovereign AI - a manifesto

Coordinated by: Fausto Giunchiglia

#	Name	Affiliation
1	Yanchun Liang	Zhuhai College of Science and Technology
2	Sunday Ojo	Durban University of Technology
3	Margherita Trestini	Apodissi
4	Wayne Moodaley	University of Cape Town
5	Michael Kizito	Makerere University
6	Ali Hamza	University of Trento
7	Hadi Khalilia	Palestine Technical University – Kadoorie



Appendix A

Break Away Dialogue Session Details

DASAI Dialogue Forum Discussion Rubrics		
Idea to discuss	<p>Diversity-Aware Sovereign AI for Africa (DASAI4Africa):</p> <p>Diversity-Aware Sovereign AI (DASAI) integrates a continent/region/nation's data independence with ethical inclusivity, with core pillars which define the framework for developing inclusive, self-determined AI science & technology, being centred on ensuring local control over digital resources while actively mitigating algorithmic bias and cultural erasure in marginalized regions. It demands infrastructures, models, and practices that are locally governable, ecologically accountable, and epistemically just, with pluriverse and 2-Eyed Seeing principles underpinning.</p>	
Modalities	<p>Participants divided into groups based on the sub-ideas to discuss, using the 5-step sub-issues Framework, with assigned Group Facilitator and Repertoire</p>	
Group #	Sub-Ideas to Discuss	Facilitators / Co-Facilitator / Rappertoires
1. ELI Group	<p>ELI Group: Ethno-Linguistic (Cultural and Linguistic) Inclusivity (ELI): AI models must be trained on localized data to preserve regional languages, dialects, and cultural norms, to avoid AI systems that suffer from semantic drift and cultural erasure, and thus safeguarding indigenous heritage from being absorbed or exploited.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Facilitator: Prof Moufoutaou Adjéran, University of Abomey-Calavi, Benin ❖ Repertoire: Dr Hlaudi Masethe, South Africa <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Professor Aimé Sègla, University of Abomey-Calavi, Benin ➤ Mr Zamikhaya Mapundu, TUT, South Africa ➤ Dr Tunde Adegbola, African Languages Technology Initiative, Nigeria ➤ Prof Oye Paul Taiwo, University of Ibadan, Nigeria ➤ Dr Olukemi Victoria Olatunde, FUTA, Nigeria ➤ Ivan Kayongo, UniTrento, Italy ➤ Dr. Iheanetu Olamma, Covenant University, Nigeria
2. LDS Group	<p>LDS Group: Local Data Sovereignty (LDS): Countries require legal, operational, and technical control over data governance, to avoid "data colonialism," whereby external entities extract local knowledge to train models that do not benefit the originating community.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Facilitator: Dr Dimane Mpoeleng, BIUST, Botswana ❖ Repertoire: Ms Rachel Oluwatuyi, UCT, South Africa <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Prof Emanuel Adetiba, DUT, South Africa ➤ Prof Mzwamadoda Phillip Cekiso, TUT, South Africa ➤ Prof Gábor Bella, IMT Atlantique, France ➤ Mrs Omolola Haastrup, HUD, UK, ➤ Dr Getnet Belay Tesema, Ethiopian Institute of Textile and Fashion Technology, Bahir Dar University, Ethiopia ➤ Davide Cavicchini, UniTrento, Italy



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Dr Reuben Ojo, University of Ibadan. ➤ Dr Ozichi Nweke Emuoyibofarhe, Bowen University, Nigeria ➤ Dr Andrea Bontempelli, UNITN, Italy
<p>3. ICC Group</p>	<p>ICC Group: Infrastructure and Compute Control(ICC): Sovereign AI relies on domestically controlled infrastructure, ranging from high-performance computing (like local GPU clusters) to edge computing networks, to guarantee that a nation's AI capabilities are not entirely dependent on foreign cloud providers or subject to external technological embargoes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Facilitator: Prof Yanchun Liang, Zhuhai College of Science & Technology ❖ Repertoire: Ms Jasmine Mazwi, UCT, South Africa <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Prof Nalin Naicker, DUT, South Africa ➤ Prof Michael Oshin, PAN-Afristitute, Australia ➤ Prof Justice Emuoyifarhe, LAUTECH, Nigeria ➤ Prof Gabriel Iwasokun, FUTA, Nigeria ➤ Dr Toyin Oguntunde, University of Ibadan, Nigeria ➤ Dr Mojeed Adedoyin Agoro , University of Fort Hare, South Africa ➤ Dr Taurai Hungwe, SMU, South Africa ➤ Ali Hamza, University of Trento, Italy ➤ Ijeh Adaora Princess, Covenant University, Nigeria
<p>4. OMMS Group</p>	<p>OMMS Group: Open-Modular Model Sovereignty (OMMS): The use of open-source and modular small/compact language models (SLMs) tailored to national needs, to avoid technology monopolies and enable contextualization/customization of AI models/algorithms for specific public sectoral needs, such as education, healthcare, agriculture, etc.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Facilitator: Prof Marion Adebisi, DUT, South Africa ❖ Repertoire: Dr Robyn Thompson, DUT, South Africa <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Prof Bennet Makunzi, MUST, Malawi ➤ Prof Babatunde Olofin, AU, Nigeria ➤ Prof Olufunke Oyejoke Oladipupo, Covenant University, Nigeria ➤ Prof Abimbola Adebisi Baale, Wetland University, Nigeria ➤ Owen Queen, Stanford University, USA ➤ Dr Freeson Kaniwa, Botswana Open University, Botswana ➤ Comfort Ojedapo, Covenant University, Nigeria
<p>5. IEDCG Group</p>	<p>IEDCG Group: Indigenous Expertise (Talent) Development and Community Governance (IEDCG): Homegrown expertise entailing investment in AI-ready human capital, digital literacy programmes, and community-driven institutions, through participatory governance, with stakeholders' underrepresentation avoidance in AI tools building and deployment decision making-AI model transparency.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Facilitator: Prof Pius Owolawi, TUT, South Africa ❖ Repertoire: Wonder Ndlovu, WITs, South Africa <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Dr Etienne van Wyk, TUT, South Africa ➤ Ms Margherita Trstinin, Apodissi, Nigeria ➤ Lin Wu, Confucius Institute, DUT, South Africa ➤ Dr Olusegun Olatunji Ojedoyin, Federal university of Health sciences, Nigeria ➤ Dr Maria Isabella Bressan, WitMee, Italy ➤ Prof Gbolagade Adekanmbi, Botswana Open University, Botswana ➤ Abiodun Abigail Adedokun, Covenant University, Nigeria
<p>6. SMAITS Group</p>	<p>SMAITS Group: Social Management of AI Technologies and Systems (SMAITS): Every AI System as a technological solution, is both Universal and a</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Facilitator: Dr. Tebogo Gumede-Mazwai, HSRC, South Africa ❖ Repertoire: Prof Mammo Muchie, GU, Ethiopia



	<p>problem-solving tool, value-laden (not value-neutral), and has side-effects and thus risks. Hence, AI requires management of Risks, Abuse, Future, and Informing Public through appropriate home-grown ethical and regulatory frameworks based on 2-Eye Seeing principle. Sovereign AI and Epistemic Justice.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Dr Gertraud Koch, University of Hamburg, Germany ➤ Rachel Charlotte Smith, Aarhus University, Denmark ➤ Prof Khandaker Tabin Hasan, American International University, Bangladesh ➤ Dr Michael Kizito, MAK, Uganda ➤ Eyethu Thwala, UniZulu, South Africa ➤ Dr Oyenyi Akeem Alimi, DUT, South Africa ➤ Hiwot Adane, Media Practice, Ethiopia ➤ Dr Matteo Busso, UniTrento, Italy ➤ Britone Mwasaru, Kenya ➤ Zhanat Nurbekova, Abia Kazakh National Pedagogical University, Kazakhstan
<p style="text-align: center;">7. SESPB Group</p>	<p>SESPB Group: Sustainable Equitable Strategic Partnership Building(SESPB): The dynamics of equity, mutual benefit, and sustainability in DASAI partnerships-fostering balanced, impactful intra-/inter-regional/national/institutional collaborations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Facilitator: Prof Dalin Li, ZCST, China ❖ Co-Facilitator: Prof Timothy Adeliyi, University of Pretoria, South Africa <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Prof Frederick Awuor, KSU, Kenya ➤ Prof Moses Tunde Oladiran, ABM University College, Botswana ➤ Prof Fausto Giunchiglia, UniTrento, Italy ➤ Mrs Ugeshni Moodley, DUT, South Africa ➤ Cetty Bombaci, Witmee, Portugal ➤ Racheal Akinboyo, Covenant University, Nigeria ➤ Dr Samson Akinpelu, FUOYE, Nigeria ➤ Birhanu Alemneh Truworke, Debark University, Ethiopia
<p style="text-align: center;">8. BM Group</p>	<p>DASAI4Africa Business Model Group: DASAI4Africa Business Model centers on state-backed, community-driven computing infrastructure designed to protect local data, support African languages, and drive inclusive economic growth. It treats sovereign infrastructure, localized data, and ethical regulation as key strategic priorities. Monetizes specialized models trained on regional data for high-impact sectors;Co-funds data centers and AI factories through PPP;Provides low-cost access to foundational models for local startups, academia, and public services through government subsidies, Promotes Language Services market sector.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Facilitator: Dr Wayne Moodaley, Graduate Business School, University of Cape Town ❖ Repertoire: Prof Olive Stumke, DUT, South Africa <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Dr Daniel Masethe, TUT, South Africa. ➤ Dr Halleluyah Oluwatobi Aworinde, Bowen University, Nigeria ➤ Naftali Ndeapo Indongo, Namibia University of Science and Technology, Namibia ➤ Ivano Rocchi, Witmee, Portugal ➤ Rebecca Ryakitimbo, Core23 Lab/apc, Tanzania ➤ Prof Saiful Islam, American International University, Bangladesh ➤ Mulugeta Shitie Zewudie, Debark University, Ethiopia ➤ Mr Antonie Smith, TUT, South Africa



Group Discussion Framework	
Discussion Sub-Issues	Guidelines
<p>Step 1.</p> <p>Who we are</p>	<p>Participants self-introduction</p> <p>Participants will display the following sentence: “My name is (x) and during the day I (x) and I like to (x).” You will also be asked to draw yourself and your superpower. Once you have written down your name, place the name card in front of you with the text facing your fellow participants. After that, the Facilitator will invite participants to do a round of sharing.</p>
<p>Step 2.</p> <p>What we care about</p>	<p>Each participant answers the question: Why is the idea important to my region / country / institution / me?</p> <p>Each participant has joined the Dialogue Forum for a specific reason and brings a unique point of view.</p> <p>In step 2, participants are asked to share their motivation for joining by answering “why the DASAI idea is important to them” or “what they care about”.</p> <p>All participants are asked to share why the DASAI idea is important to them or what they care about. By using key words and short sentences, participants individually write on the “what I care about” activity card and place it on step two on the canvas. The Facilitator will then ask participants to share.</p>
<p>Step 3.</p> <p>Obstacles and Opportunities</p>	<p>From their unique perspectives each participant to answer:</p> <p>What obstacles to overcome- barrier, problem, or challenge?</p> <p>What opportunities does the DASAI idea offer? solution or improvement to the idea?</p> <p>Participants are asked to write the obstacles the DASAI idea faces and opportunities it presents on sticky notes. One obstacle or opportunity per sticky note. After this, participants are invited to share and then place on the canvas. If two or more participants have similar ideas, group them together.</p>
<p>Step 4.</p> <p>Influencing perspectives and factors</p>	<p>Participants are asked to consider how external factors impact their idea. Using the 4R’s of Roles & relationships, Resources, Results and Rules, participants are given an opportunity to reflect individually before the Facilitator facilitates an open dialogue. While the participants are discussing, the Facilitator and Repertoires, take note of the key discussion points. The Facilitator then shares the key points of the discussion and if everyone agrees, each point is noted</p> <p>What different perspectives and external factors in your regional/national/institutional context can influence the DASAI idea and its outcomes such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Roles & Relationships: who affects and who is affected by the idea? ● Resources: what resources are needed for your idea? Think budget, personnel, time, etc. ● Rules: are there laws, policies, guidelines, protocols or norms that apply to your idea? ● Results: what are the desired outcomes of this idea?



<p>Step 5.</p> <p>Let's Act</p>	<p>What are the concrete and measurable actions that can be carried forward after the DASAI Dialogue?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify which general actions need to be taken to implement the idea, from the perspective of relevant institutional stakeholders.• Identify individual actions that each participant can take after the DASAI Dialogue. E.g. By October 2026 I will facilitate an intra-institutional DASAI Dialogue Forum, By June 2027, I will facilitate my institution joining the DataScientia initiative on DASAI; By October 2027, I will facilitate a National DASAI Dialogue Forum, etc
---	---



Appendix B

Acronyms and Abbreviations

#	Acronym	Institution / Organization	Country
1	UNITN	University of Trento	Italy
2	DUT	Durban University of Technology	South Africa
3	ZCST	Zhuhai College of Science and Technology	China
4	NUM	National University of Mongolia	Mongolia
5	ABAI	Abai Kazakh National Pedagogical University	Kazakhstan
6	OUC	Open University of Cyprus	Cyprus
7	JLU	Jilin University	China
8	AIUB	American International University–Bangladesh	Bangladesh
9	MAK	Makerere University	Uganda
10	PTUK	Palestine Technical University – Kadoorie	Palestine
11	APODISSI	APODISSI	Nigeria
12	TUT	Tshwane University of Technology	South Africa
13	IMT Atlantique	IMT Atlantique	France
14	UNISA	University of South Africa	South Africa
15	UCT	University of Cape Town	South Africa
16	UAC	University of Abomey–Calavi	Benin Republic