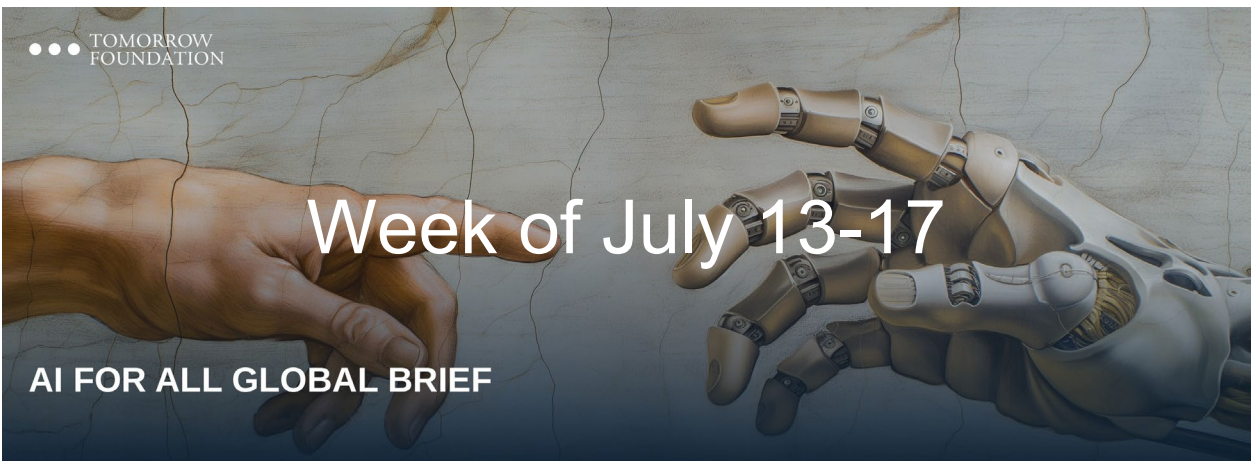




Week of July 13-17

AI FOR ALL GLOBAL BRIEF

GLOBAL SIGNALS

The EU AI Act's August 2 Deadline Has Teeth, Even Though the Headlines Say It Was Delayed

Article 50 transparency duties and GPAI enforcement powers activate August 2, 2026, retroactive to violations dating back to August 2025, even though the Annex III high-risk deadline was pushed to December 2027 under the Digital Omnibus. Providers of foundation models have been subject to documentation and risk-assessment obligations since August 2025; starting August 2, the Commission can fine them for it, including retroactively.

xAI has signed only the Safety and Security chapter of the GPAI Code of Practice, leaving transparency and copyright compliance to what the company calls “alternative adequate means” — a position the Commission has indicated will face heightened scrutiny.

Why it matters: Teams that read the delay headlines and moved AI governance down their priority list are making an expensive mistake. The obligations landing first — GPAI enforcement and Article 50 transparency — did not move at all.

Source: [Gibson Dunn](#)

INFRASTRUCTURE

Power Is Now Infrastructure Policy — And Not Every Region Can Afford It

The defining constraint on AI infrastructure expansion in 2026 is not capital, not regulation, and not model supply. It is electricity. Microsoft is running GPU clusters that sit partially idle — depreciating assets waiting for grid connections that may not arrive for years. The company has responded by contracting gigawatts of power directly from renewable developers; Brookfield and Bloom Energy expanded their AI infrastructure power partnership from \$5 billion to \$25 billion in June 2026, a fivefold increase.

Kenya's Microsoft-G42 campus — a \$1 billion investment — was sited specifically around Olkaria's geothermal reserves, not around population centers or existing connectivity hubs, illustrating the same logic playing out across energy-rich regions worldwide.

Why it matters: The geography of power is becoming the geography of AI access. A clinic in Nairobi using an AI diagnostic tool hosted locally experiences a different product than one hosted in Frankfurt.

Source: [World Economic Forum](#) | [Brookfield / Bloom Energy](#)

ALSO THIS WEEK

- India's IndiaAI Mission has deployed approximately 38,000 GPUs at a subsidized rate of ₹65 per hour — a fraction of AWS or Azure pricing — but every chip is designed in the US or Taiwan. [\[source\]](#)

EDUCATION AND HUMAN CAPACITY

Africa's AI Capacity Crisis — The Problem Bootcamps Cannot Solve

A March 2026 IMF AI Preparedness Index, covered by ICTworks, delivers an uncomfortable diagnosis: Africa needs an estimated 23 million additional STEM graduates by 2030, yet only 9% of youth aged 15–24 across 15 African countries have basic computer skills, and African countries graduate just 4–12% of students in STEM fields — a gap current graduation rates would take over 150 years to close.

Short-term bootcamps and executive microcredential programs — the dominant policy response — address the demand symptom at the top of the funnel. They do not rebuild the funnel itself: the scarcity of qualified STEM teachers, the concentration of research infrastructure in a handful of flagship institutions, and the recruitment of the most capable graduates into roles abroad.

Why it matters: A student who completes a six-week AI bootcamp gains genuine new capability. But they still enter a labor market where stable power, local compute, and research institutions are all still under construction — a gap that, if unaddressed, produces a generation trained for an economy they cannot fully access.

Source: [ICTworks / IMF AI Preparedness Index](#)

ALSO THIS WEEK

- UNESCO's right-to-education report finds only 40% of primary schools, 50% of lower-secondary schools, and 65% of upper-secondary schools worldwide have internet access — a connectivity floor that predates any AI-specific policy question. [\[source\]](#)

CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

The Nigeria AI Film Festival Is Betting Nollywood Can Set Africa's AI Storytelling Norms

NAIFF's second edition returns to Alliance Française Lagos in September 2026, with submissions open through July 31. Last year's debut drew more than 400 submissions and hosted screenings, panels, and an AI Academy giving creatives practical production tools.

Nollywood's scale — second only to Bollywood by volume — means its AI-integration choices are likely to set de facto norms for African-language content production well ahead of any governance framework catching up to the technology.

Why it matters: While governments and rights holders elsewhere are still litigating what AI in creative work should look like, Nollywood is already building the norms on the ground, at scale, in the language its audience actually speaks.

Source: [FilmFreeway / NAIFF](#)

ALSO THIS WEEK

- Universal, Sony, and Warner have each negotiated undisclosed bulk AI-training licensing deals, while TIDAL cuts royalty eligibility for fully AI-generated tracks entirely, effective July 15, 2026. [\[source\]](#)

REGIONAL LENS

Latin America Moves From Secondary Market to Hyperscaler Priority

Brazil has launched a \$350 billion ten-year data center investment strategy, anchored by ByteDance's roughly \$38 billion Pecém campus — explicitly tied to a wind-power purchase agreement. AWS has committed \$5 billion to Mexico, an investment it projects will add \$10 billion to Mexican GDP. OpenAI's \$25 billion Stargate Argentina remains at Letter-of-Intent stage but would rank among the largest technology projects in Argentine history.

The structural reason is energy: Latin America offers abundant renewable generation at a moment when hyperscalers have elevated clean power access from a preference to a procurement requirement.

Why it matters: The governance gap is the counterweight: capital is arriving faster than regulatory frameworks can absorb it. Chile and Colombia have draft AI frameworks; Argentina and Mexico do not.

Source: [Intelligent CIO LATAM](#)

ALSO THIS WEEK

- Gulf AI infrastructure passed its first physical stress test in early March 2026, when Iranian drone strikes directly hit AWS data centers in the UAE and Bahrain, reframing data centers as defense infrastructure with no existing hardening standard. [\[source\]](#)
- Vietnam's 2026 AI Law and Malaysia's sovereign cloud mandates are turning the Johor-Singapore-Batam corridor into a genuine multi-country AI infrastructure federation outside the US hyperscaler model. [\[source\]](#)

OPPORTUNITIES AND EVENTS

EXPAND North Star Returns to Dubai, December 8–10

EXPAND North Star, the Gulf's flagship startup and investor event, returns to Expo City Dubai December 8–10, 2026, alongside GITEX Global at its new venue. The December placement aligns with Q4 capital deployment cycles for Gulf sovereign wealth funds, historically a higher-conversion window than spring conference season.

Why it matters: For a team that has been building in isolation — which describes most early-stage AI ventures in the Global South — this is one of the few environments where the asymmetry of access to Gulf capital is temporarily compressed.

Source: [Expand North Star, official](#)

ALSO THIS WEEK

- AfDB and UNDP's AI 10 Billion Initiative, launched at the February 2026 Nairobi AI Forum, is running a 10-month roadshow through roughly December 2026 to engage governments and private-sector partners across the continent. [\[source\]](#)
- Google.org's \$120 million Global AI Opportunity Fund continues to back AI education and skills training through local nonprofit partners worldwide. [\[source\]](#)

ONE SIGNAL WE ARE WATCHING

Africa's AI capacity crisis. Two Tier 3 candidates entered this week's pipeline: the global power constraint on AI growth, and Africa's structural human-capacity gap. The power story is large and civilizational, but it's also the story every infrastructure publication is running this month, and it's reversible — a data center can be financed in 18 months. Africa's capacity gap cannot be closed on that timescale. It is structural, under-covered outside development circles, and it is the story that most directly answers what AI means for the students, teachers, and communities being told AI will transform their economies while the foundational conditions to participate in that transformation do not yet exist.

AI for All Global Brief is a publication of Tomorrow Foundation.