

1. GLOBAL SIGNALS — LABOR, GOVERNANCE & SOCIETY

57 Countries Sign a “Children First” Declaration: No AI in Children's Hands Without Prior Testing

On November 10, at the Child Summit of the Paris Peace Forum, 57 countries adopted the Children First Declaration, among them Brazil, Mexico, Egypt, South Africa, the United Arab Emirates, Germany, Spain and the United Kingdom. It commits signatories to five pillars for children — health, nutrition, education, protection, and psychosocial well-being in the digital age — with tangible results targeted by 2045. French President Emmanuel Macron summed up its approach to technology: “No AI should be placed in the hands of children without first being tested, evaluated and therefore authorised.”

UNICEF Executive Director Catherine Russell told the summit that AI “offers extraordinary opportunities for learning, inclusion, and better services,” but without safeguards “exposes children to new and dangerous risks.” She called for AI systems designed for child safety from the outset, with privacy protections, age-appropriate safeguards and child-rights impact assessments, and for children to have a voice in decisions that shape their digital lives. AI companies and safety organisations pledged €8 million for research on how AI affects child development. The declaration is a political commitment, not binding law.

> **Why it matters:** Children are among the heaviest users of AI tools and the least able to judge their risks. A shared principle that AI for children must be tested before it reaches them, endorsed by countries across the Global North and South, sets a standard that education ministries, app makers and schools everywhere can be held to. Its value will depend on whether it becomes national rules and funding.

Sources: UNICEF | Digital Policy Alert | The National

ALSO THIS WEEK

- US Federal Reserve Vice Chair for Supervision Michelle Bowman estimated that AI-related demand accounts for about a quarter of above-target US inflation, warned that AI-related debt is on track to exceed $800 billion this year, and said AI stocks could face a large correction if revenues fall short of costs. [source]

---

2. INFRASTRUCTURE & COMPUTE

Africa Holds 0.6% of the World's Data-Centre Capacity and Must Build Its Own, Warns a Pan-African Tech Body

The Technology Information Confederation Africa (TICON Africa) warned on November 10 that the continent must invest in its own data centres and computing power or risk being shut out of

the AI economy. Its president, David Gowu, pointed to the sell-off in US AI and data-centre stocks after the US midterm elections as a sign of the risk of relying on infrastructure built elsewhere. Africa is home to about a fifth of the world's population but holds about 0.6% of global data-centre capacity, according to the Africa Data Centres Association. Access Partnership estimates that by 2030 sub-Saharan Africa will face a 98% gap between demand for AI computing and the capacity available.

Gowu called for local data centres and cloud infrastructure, lower computing costs for start-ups, universities and researchers, and stronger data governance frameworks. “Developing local capacity is therefore not simply about data sovereignty,” he said, but also about capturing the economic value of AI: “Africa cannot expect to capture the full economic benefits of AI” without investing in its foundations.

> **Why it matters:** Without local computing power, African researchers, start-ups and public services depend on infrastructure, prices and rules set elsewhere. Building it close to home can lower costs, keep sensitive data under local control and create skilled jobs, provided the energy and water it needs are planned with the communities around it.

Source: TechTrends Kenya

ALSO THIS WEEK

- Saudi Arabia's National Infrastructure Fund agreed to lend Humain up to $667 million: $293 million for chips and $373 million to connect its data centres to the power grid, enough for up to 1 gigawatt of capacity. [source]

---

3. EDUCATION & HUMAN CAPACITY

Nigeria Opens ₦4 Billion for Tech-Training Partners, and Will Pay Them for Jobs, Not Attendance

On November 11, Nigeria's Ministry of Communications, Innovation and Digital Economy opened applications for the Delivery Network of its 3 Million Technical Talent (3MTT) programme, with ₦4 billion in partner funding for cohorts 5 and 6. The money is tied to verified results — employment, freelance work or new businesses — rather than the number of people trained. Cohort 5 is supported by the European Union and Denmark, through GIZ's Digital Transformation Centre Nigeria and partners, and by the MacArthur Foundation.

Organisations and consortia registered and operating in Nigeria can apply for cohort 5 funding until November 30, 2026, at delivery.3mtt.gov.ng; Delivery Network membership stays open, with quarterly reviews. The ministry also invited employers, funders, technology companies, state governments and research organisations to join. “By tying our support to verified demand and real results,” said Minister Bosun Tijani, the programme aims to reach its goal of three million skilled technical workers.

> **Why it matters:** Too many training programmes count certificates rather than livelihoods. Paying providers for jobs and businesses created puts the learner's outcome at the centre and gives funders evidence of what works. If it succeeds, it is a model other African countries can adapt.

Sources: Nairametrics | Leadership

ALSO THIS WEEK

- AI Research Foundations, a Google.org-funded programme built by Google DeepMind with UCL, reached South Africa with a first workshop at Stellenbosch: it trains university lecturers to teach advanced AI, aiming to reach 30,000 students at 30 universities in Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa. [source]

4. CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

Most Creatives Now Use AI Daily, but Few Earn More, and Half Don't Tell Their Clients

On November 10, Envato, the creative-asset platform owned by Shutterstock, published its second annual “Beyond the Hype” report, based on a September survey of 1,033 creative professionals in 103 countries and territories, more than half of them working alone. 87% use AI at least occasionally and 58% every day, up nine points in a year. Yet creatives keep control of their work: only 4 to 11% let AI handle any stage with little input, and they rank taste and judgement (53%) far above prompting skills (19%).

The gains are not reaching their pockets. Half say AI makes them faster, but only 7% report higher earnings, while 18% say clients now expect AI-assisted work to cost less. The rules lag behind: 53% of AI users have used it on key client work without telling the client, and even in organisations of 250 people or more, 40% have no written AI policy. All respondents are Envato subscribers, so the sample does not represent all creative workers.

> **Why it matters:** For freelance designers, illustrators and video makers, many of them in the Global South working alone for clients abroad, AI is raising expectations faster than incomes. Clear norms on disclosure and fair pricing protect both creators and the trust of those who hire them. Speed becomes progress only when creators share in the value it creates.

Source: Envato, via GlobeNewswire

ALSO THIS WEEK

- The Latin Grammys, held in Las Vegas on November 12, were the first under the Latin Recording Academy's AI rules: works with no human authorship are disqualified, and AI-assisted works qualify only where the human contribution is “meaningful and more than minimal.” [source]

5. REGIONAL LENS — AFRICA & THE GLOBAL SOUTH

Cassava's 12,000-GPU Plan Takes Shape: Cape Town's AI Factory Is Running, and the World Bank Backs Shared Compute

Cassava Technologies, the pan-African technology group of Zimbabwean entrepreneur Strive Masiyiwa, is building an AI computing network of up to 12,000 Nvidia GPUs across Africa, worth up to $720 million. Its AI factory in Cape Town is running; the first phase places 3,000 GPUs in South Africa, with a 20-megawatt site planned in Johannesburg and the rest to follow over three to four years in Egypt, Kenya, Morocco and Nigeria. In Egypt, Cassava, Vodafone and Elsewedy Electric are building Africa Data Centres Egypt, starting at 20 megawatts with a target of 200. “They told us there were only 80 Nvidia GPUs on the African continent,” Masiyiwa recalled when the plan was launched.

In October, the World Bank named Cassava and Nvidia as knowledge partners in a new initiative to give governments in emerging markets shared, pay-as-you-go access to GPUs, starting with Africa and Latin America, as an alternative to each country building its own data centres.

> **Why it matters:** African-owned infrastructure gives the continent's researchers, start-ups and governments computing power on their own soil. Shared, pay-as-you-go access could put AI within reach of countries and institutions that could never afford their own data centres. What matters now is pricing and who gets access first.

Sources: Billionaires.Africa | W.Media

ALSO THIS WEEK

- Nairobi-based Enza Capital reached a $21 million first close on a dedicated AI Africa fund, targeting $60 million, to back applied AI built for African conditions rather than frontier models, as disclosed funding for African AI start-ups fell by more than 90% between 2025 and the first half of 2026. [source]
- Google launched its Africa Applied AI Lab, a six-month accelerator whose first ten start-ups work on health diagnostics, crop-yield prediction, fraud detection, education and low-resource African languages, each with up to $200,000 in cloud credits. [source]

---

6. OPPORTUNITIES & EVENTS

Microsoft's AI Economy Institute Offers $75,000 Research Fellowships on Designing AI That Augments Work

Microsoft's AI Economy Institute has opened Cohort 4 of its Senior Fellows Program, on “AI and Jobs: designing for augmented work.” The call asks how organisational choices — workflow design, team structure, governance, incentives, accountability and expertise development — determine whether AI complements human work, replaces it, or creates new economic activity.

Each selected proposal receives a $75,000 research gift and a travel allowance of $20,000 for awardees outside the United States, Canada and Mexico. Fellows join bi-weekly virtual workshops and an in-person workshop, and contribute a chapter to an edited book and a paper to an open-access journal. Researchers at accredited universities and research institutions worldwide can apply; principal investigators need a PhD or equivalent. Applications close on November 30, 2026.

> **Why it matters:** Whether AI replaces or empowers workers is not decided by technology alone, but by how organisations choose to use it. Research from Global South institutions can make sure the evidence reflects the economies where most of the world's workers live.

Sources: Microsoft Research | Opportunities for Africans

ALSO THIS WEEK

- The African AI Film Festival, the first dedicated to African and diaspora filmmakers working with AI, premieres in Hollywood on November 21 and in Kampala on December 12; entrants must disclose the AI tools they used. [source]

ONE SIGNAL WE ARE WATCHING

Who sets the terms. This week, 57 countries agreed that AI must be tested before it reaches children, a global survey found that creatives now use AI daily without earning more from it, and Nigeria decided to pay training providers for jobs created rather than certificates issued. At the same time, African voices warned that a continent with a fifth of the world's people holds 0.6% of its data-centre capacity, as African-owned GPUs begin to arrive. At Tomorrow Foundation, we believe AI serves people best when they help set its terms: children protected before products reach them, creators fairly paid for the value they create, learners judged by the livelihoods they build, and communities given the infrastructure to build AI for their own needs. Access without agency is not inclusion.

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