



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

153rd IPU Assembly

Arusha,
United Republic of Tanzania
5–9 October 2026



Workshop

Promoting ethical AI serving child rights

Wednesday, 7 October 2026, 14:00–15:30

Concept note

Artificial intelligence (AI) is rapidly transforming the environments in which children grow up, learn, communicate, and exercise their rights. Its growing use in education, healthcare, social media, public services and leisure offers considerable opportunities to improve children's well-being and development.

In particular, AI can help personalize learning, and facilitate access to education and information for children, especially those with disabilities. It can also improve health services and expand access to knowledge more broadly.

However, these opportunities come with significant risks. Children are particularly vulnerable to violations of their privacy and the protection of their personal data, profiling and surveillance, algorithmic bias, misinformation, and harmful content. Generative AI systems can also facilitate the production or manipulation of content that may undermine children's dignity, safety and integrity. Furthermore, excessive reliance on digital technologies can affect their development and their capacity for discernment.

The digital divide is another major challenge. While some children are taking full advantage of the new opportunities offered by AI, millions of others still lack adequate access to the internet, digital devices, and the skills needed to use these technologies. Without proactive policies, AI risks exacerbating existing inequalities among countries, regions and social groups.

Placing children's rights at the heart of AI governance

The development and use of AI as it relates to children should be guided by the principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, including the best interests of the child. General Comment No. 25 of the Committee on the Rights of the Child also reiterates that these rights must be fully respected, protected and fulfilled in the digital environment.

A vital role for parliaments

Parliaments have a special responsibility to ensure that technological innovation remains at the service of human beings and fundamental rights. Through their legislative, budgetary, oversight and representative functions, they can help establish AI governance frameworks that effectively protect children without hindering beneficial innovation.

In particular, they can promote legislation that guarantees: protection of children's data and privacy, online safety, transparency in algorithmic systems, and the accountability of actors who develop or deploy AI solutions.

Special attention should be given to AI applications in sensitive areas such as education, health, justice and social protection.

E

#IPU153

Against this backdrop, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), in line with its commitment to promoting and protecting the rights of the child, as enshrined in the related Convention, is organizing a workshop on *Promoting ethical AI serving child rights*.

Through the exchange of good practice, this panel will seek to identify concrete measures to:

- strengthen legislative and regulatory frameworks,
- hold technology providers accountable,
- promote impact assessments on children's rights,
- invest in digital inclusion and skills, and
- ensure children's participation in AI governance.

The workshop will include interventions by AI specialists and parliamentarians.