

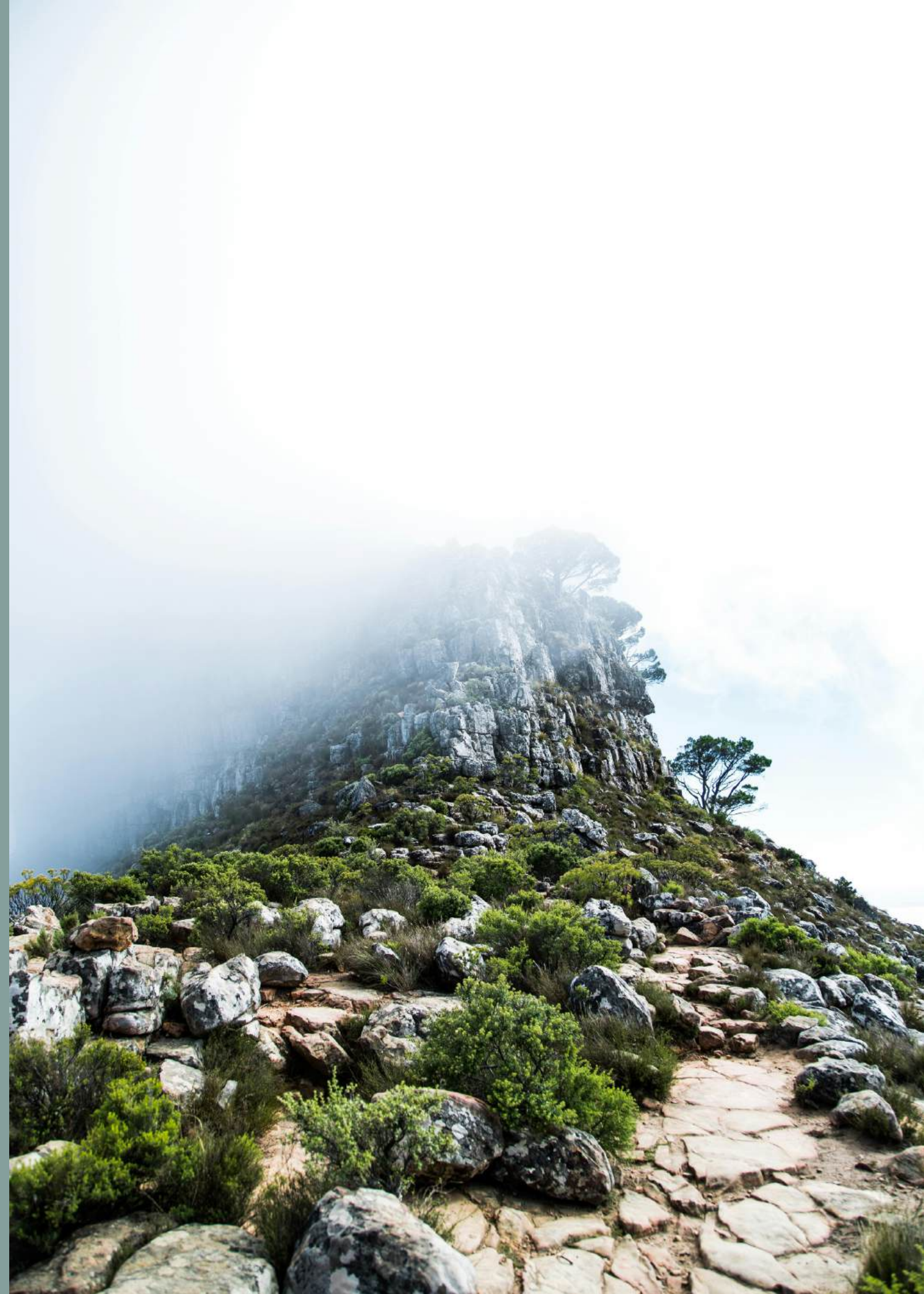
# Annual Report

## 2024 – 2025



# We are on a mission to reduce global inequalities exacerbated by AI.

Africa's leading voice in AI policy and governance, working globally to shape fair and inclusive technologies.



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The GCG team and partners in  
Cape Town, South Africa (March 2024)





# A Note from our Founders

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In early 2024, we set out to build more than just a research center – we envisioned a vibrant platform that would produce and disseminate knowledge, nurture African talent, and place the voices of Africa and the Global Majority at the very heart of AI governance. From this vision, the Global Center on AI Governance was born, proudly rooted in South Africa, deeply connected to the world.

In our inaugural year, we have taken significant strides towards realizing our vision of a world where AI technologies and governance is reflective of all of humanity. We have laid the groundwork by producing a wide-ranging body of research that explores urgent questions around AI governance, from the responsible use of generative AI in solving critical developmental challenges to the landmark study on AI in Africa, illuminating both the risks and opportunities not only for Africa, but for communities around the world.

Among our most significant milestones, we launched the Global Index on Responsible AI – now the world’s largest study of its kind – thanks to generous support from Canada’s International Development Research Centre (IDRC), the Government of Canada, and the UK’s Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO). This pioneering tool equips policymakers, civil society, and innovators to advance just and accountable AI. We are deeply grateful to the more than 200 responsible AI researchers worldwide who contributed their expertise to shape this groundbreaking initiative.

But our commitment extends far beyond research. Together with the University of Cape Town and the University of Pretoria, we introduced the continent’s first certificate courses on AI Ethics and Policy in Africa and AI and Human Rights in Africa, while investing in mentorship and capacity strengthening programmes to empower the next generation of ethical AI leaders.

We have forged partnerships with organisations across the globe, from the Atlantic Council to CAF – Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean, and have contributed meaningfully to the work of esteemed institutions such as the Gates Foundation and to UN-led efforts to define global standards for AI governance.

Our team – a remarkable collective of thinkers, researchers, and practitioners from Africa and beyond – has grown in both strength and diversity. United across continents, we have cherished in-person collaboration in Cape Town and Cambridge, while connecting virtually across time zones to address some of the world’s most pressing questions about AI.

As we reflect on this first chapter and look ahead, we are energised by the dedication of our partners, supporters, and communities. Together, we will continue to champion a fairer AI future that is anchored in our shared humanity and collective responsibility.

Thank you for walking this path with us.

**Rachel Adams & Fola Adeleke**

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# Leading Research with a Beating Heart

02

# Our Approach

At the Global Center on AI Governance (GCG), we have a deep rooted belief that AI should serve all of humanity, especially those most impacted by global inequalities exacerbated by AI. We believe that AI development and governance must be ethical and inclusive – reflecting diverse voices, and lived experiences, from Africa and the Global Majority.

In our inaugural year, we have charted new paths for discourse and policy on AI governance by building out evidence-based research and technical advisory services that centre the voices, rights, and unique contexts of African communities, while influencing AI governance globally.

Our work is driven by the conviction that AI must serve all of humanity equitably. To achieve this, we have carefully refined a set of core services designed to meet the evolving needs of policymakers, civil society, innovators, and other key stakeholders. These include:



Research and Evidence



Policy Advisory and Development



Partnerships, Networks, and Collaborations



Partnerships, Networks, and Collaborations



Start-Up Advisory and Regulatory Intelligence

Our services are anchored across two flagship initiatives: the [African Observatory on Responsible AI](#) (AORAI), and the [Global Index on Responsible AI](#) (GIRAI). AORAI is at the forefront of shaping AI governance across Africa, serving as a leading knowledge hub for responsible AI on the continent. In 2024, it spearheaded major initiatives including the launch of university-accredited certificate courses, provided advisory support for national and regional AI policies, and led UNESCO's Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM) across nine countries in Africa.

GIRAI builds on and strengthens this work – it is the first comprehensive framework measuring responsible AI commitments across 138 countries, including 41 in Africa. Moving beyond the parameters of innovation and investment, the Index fills critical data gaps by employing human-rights based benchmarks and assesses whether countries have the right frameworks and infrastructure to develop AI responsibly.

These initiatives represent our commitment to ensuring AI serves all of humanity, not just the privileged few. By combining deep regional expertise through AORAI with global benchmarking through GIRAI, we are building a scientific evidence base that helps shape more equitable AI governance.

# Our Team



Dr. Rachel Adams  
Founder & CEO



Dr. Fola Adeleke  
Co-Founder & Executive Director



Mark Gaffley  
Director: Legal & Operations



Nicolás Grossman  
Project Director, Global Index on Responsible AI



Dr. Leah Junck  
Senior Researcher



Dr. Samuel Segun  
Senior Researcher



Selamawit Engida Abdella  
Researcher



Ayantola Alayande  
Researcher



Ana Florido  
Methods Lead, Global Index on Responsible AI



Sally Kuria  
Head of Communications



Shyline Muthoni  
Community Manager



Daphine Nkunda  
Social Media and Communications Officer



Melanie George  
Project and Operations Coordinator



Maha Jouini  
Research Fellow



An aerial photograph of a coastline. On the left, a wide, light-colored sandy beach stretches diagonally. The ocean is a vibrant turquoise color, with white foam from breaking waves visible along the shoreline. The right side of the image is a solid, muted teal color, which serves as a background for the text.

# A Year in Review

03



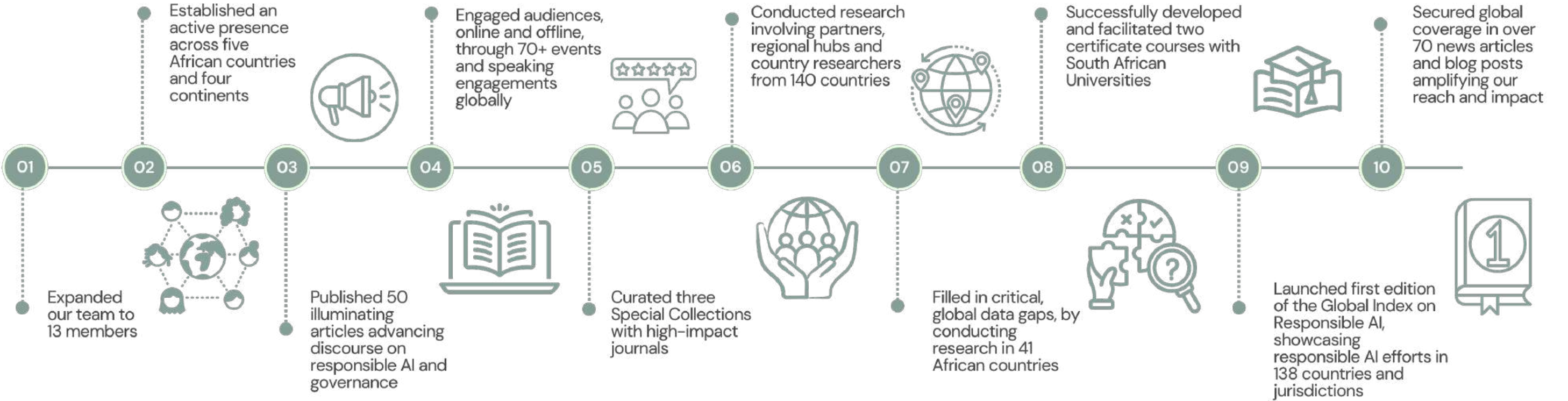
2024 Highlights

In its first year of operation, 2024 saw GCG lay the groundwork for becoming a world-class organization, championing African research on the global AI governance stage.

Even in our first year, our evidence-led research gained notable recognition and credibility – reflected in citations across leading international policy and academic documents. Among these were the [UN High Level Advisory Body on AI](#), Global Partnership on AI's [Towards Substantive Equality in Artificial Intelligence](#) report, UNESCO's [AI and Gender Report](#) alongside their [Emerging Approaches Across the World](#) consultation paper, and the FCDO and Google's [Successfully Harnessing AI in Africa Report](#), and academic citations. These citations are indicative of the increased trust in GCG's rigorous research and underscore the important role we are beginning to play in shaping AI governance globally.

Building on this growing recognition, 2024 also saw us achieve significant milestones across research, capacity building, and global engagement. Over the year, we:

2024 Highlights





# Flagship Project:

The African  
Observatory on  
Responsible AI

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## Championing Inclusive, Human-Centered AI

At GCG, we are committed to centering and championing African expertise and experiences to ensure AI serves all of humanity, not just the privileged few. In bringing this vision to life, we established one of our flagship projects, the African Observatory on Responsible AI (AORAI), to advance research, policy, and capacity strengthening on AI across Africa.

AORAI serves as a vibrant knowledge hub and platform that brings together a continent wide network of scholars, policy makers, and practitioners. It has developed one of the [most comprehensive databases](#) of scientific evidence on the design and adoption of responsible AI in Africa.

In 2024, AORAI deepened its reach and impact by building strategic university partnerships, delivering certificate courses on AI and Human Rights and on AI and Ethics in Africa, and playing an influential role in shaping AI policies and governance frameworks both continentally through the African Union and at the national level across African countries.

### Capacity strengthening through education

In 2024, AORAI expanded its educational reach by partnering with the University of Pretoria and the University of Cape Town to launch two pilot, certified short courses designed to strengthen the capacity of stakeholders across the continent.

#### AI Ethics and Policy in Africa (University of Cape Town Ethics Lab)

A 12-week course exploring the intersection of AI development, ethics, and policy within the context of the continent's historical and socio-economic inequalities. The pilot cohort welcomed 20 participants.

#### AI and Human Rights in Africa (University of Pretoria)

A one-week intensive course featuring 17 seminars on the human rights implications of AI in Africa. The course brought together 50 participants from 20 African countries, including government policymakers, data protection commissioners, academics, researchers and private sector leaders.

Both courses prioritised scholarships for African women, reinforcing our commitment to inclusive AI leadership. Based on the success of these pilots, these courses will continue in 2025. The course with the University of Cape Town has already seen an increase in enrolment and has awarded five additional scholarships to African women working in AI ethics and policy.

To date, through these courses and a range of bespoke training programmes, AORAI has equipped over 100 emerging leaders with the tools to advance responsible AI across the continent.

For more information or to enrol one of our courses please visit our ['Education'](#) page.



Thank you to everyone for making this course possible. It **fills such an important gap** in the AI Ethics/Policy space. As far as I know, this is the only course that deals specifically with African AI ethics, which is a welcome refresher from the plethora of courses from the Global North. I really enjoyed every single week and the content and flow of the course was great.

Some of my takeaways from the course included a comprehensive understanding of the ethical principles that should underpin AI innovation, awareness of the current policy landscape and regulatory challenges, and practical insights into designing AI systems that prioritize human values and social good. I also gained **critical perspectives** on the importance of multidisciplinary approaches in addressing AI ethics and the role of policymakers, technologists, and stakeholders in shaping responsible AI practices.

The course has been **incredibly valuable**, and I want to extend a big thank you to the organisers, presenters and everyone else involved for establishing this course.

Fantastic short course, **impactful** and **will serve the African and Global community** well. Wonderful initiative! In a time where many are chasing AI skills, the ethics must not be left behind as it could be the difference between life and death depending on where and how an AI tool is deployed. We must be ready for any and all risks and not allow these AI models to be used unchecked. This has been my takeaways and learnings from this course. Truly grateful for the experience.



## Bespoke training on responsible AI governance

Alongside our work with accredited institutions and universities, we've begun designing and delivering bespoke training for government agencies, civil society networks, and corporate clients.

These tailored sessions address the specific needs of diverse audiences – these range from grounding AI policy in public interest for government analysts or equipping diplomats to leverage AI for trade and development across Africa.

Highlights from 2024 include:

- **National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA):** In partnership with Data Science Nigeria, Fola Adeleke was invited to deliver a training session for policy analysts at NITDA.
- **Tekano:** GCG was engaged by Tekano to deliver a bespoke workshop in Cape Town for a network of civil society activists, exploring AI and its potential opportunities for activism in the health sector.
- **Canadian High Commission, Kenya:** GCG was invited to provide training to local diplomats on the use of AI to promote trade and development in Africa

If you are interested in a tailored training course for your organisation on AI-related governance, ethics, or human rights in the Global South, please do get in touch with us at [info@globalcenter.ai](mailto:info@globalcenter.ai).

## Peer-reviewed, evidence-led research

As a vibrant knowledge hub, AORAI brings together a growing network of scholars and researchers across the continent and the diaspora. Many are advancing cutting-edge work on AI with leading global institutions, participating in African Observatory-led conferences and publishing in special collections in renowned journals.

By publishing peer-reviewed academic journal

articles, policy briefs, and blog posts, we have established ourselves as a trusted authority in knowledge production and dissemination. Our major outputs are showcased throughout this report, with a complete list of publications available on page 44. You can also explore our full research collection in the [repository](#) on the GCG website.

### Special Collection on African AI Ethics

In 2024, the African Observatory collaborated with [Data & Policy](#), an open-access journal published by Cambridge University Press, to lead a dedicated track on Artificial Intelligence, Ethics, and Policy Governance in Africa. This special track featured at the eighth international Data for Policy Conference held from 9 to 11 July 2024 at Imperial College, London. The partnership culminated in the publication of nine papers in a December 2024 special collection. For more information, please refer to the outputs section on page 44.

### Successfully Harnessing AI in Africa (Wilton Park)

AORAI's ability to bring together diverse voices and perspectives on responsible AI was illuminated at Wilton Park, in partnership with FCDO and Google, for the notable event on Successfully Harnessing AI in Africa. This has ensured we're present in important spaces where critical decisions are made on the future of this technology and its impact throughout Africa.

The event brought together government officials, civil society and the private sector to discuss how AI can be harnessed to drive socioeconomic development and, while mitigating the potential risks of deepening the digital divide. More information on this pivotal event can be found [here](#).

### Supporting the Implementation of UNESCO's Recommendations on the Ethics of AI

The UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence calls on countries to adopt two key tools that foster ethical AI development – one of them is the Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM). This tool enables governments and stakeholders to evaluate national frameworks, competencies, and capacities related to ethical AI development, while identifying policy gaps and

offering tailored recommendations for progress.

The AORAI team was honoured to be appointed by UNESCO to lead the RAM process across Southern and Eastern Africa, covering nine countries: Botswana, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, South Africa, and Zimbabwe.

Through a participatory and consultative approach, the AORAI team has worked with ministries, policymakers, and local experts to develop RAMs for each country. These assessments highlight readiness levels, map institutional gaps, and provide clear, actionable roadmaps for implementing ethical and rights-respecting AI.

To date, RAMs for four countries have been completed, with [Kenya](#) and [South Africa's](#) assessments already publicly available. This regional initiative is a major step forward in aligning African AI governance with global ethical standards while remaining grounded in local contexts.

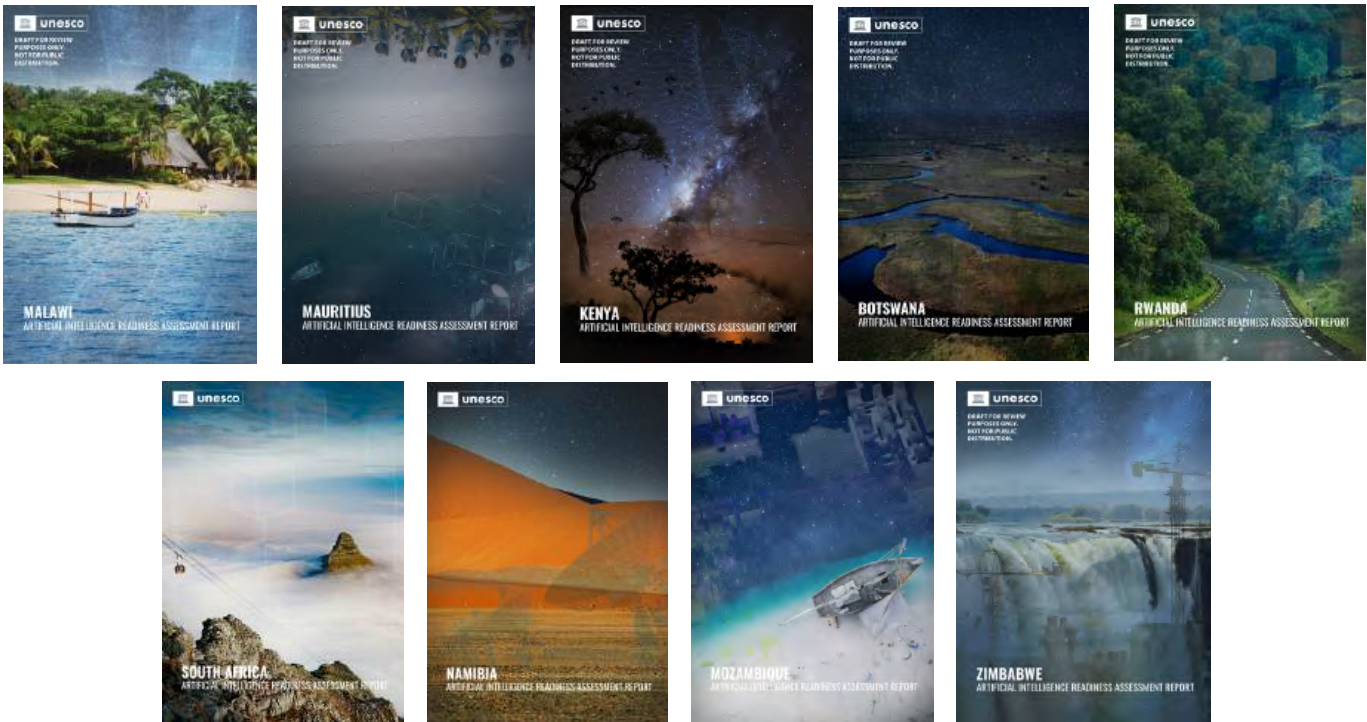
## Observatory Impact

### Women in Focus

As a flagship initiative of AORAI, Women in Focus further advanced our commitment to gender equity in AI. This initiative amplifies the voices, leadership, and lived experiences of African women working in the field, creating space for recognition, connection and learning while celebrating their contributions across the AI ecosystem.

### Mentorship

We have invested in AI governance research mentorship programmes in Nigeria, supporting budding talent across the continent and nurturing the next generation of ethical AI leaders. Working with local organizations on the ground, we look to continue expanding this support in 2025.





# Flagship Project:

Global Index on  
Responsible AI

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## Setting a New Global Benchmark for Responsible AI

At GCG, we believe that understanding and measuring progress towards global efforts on the responsible design, development, deployment and governance of AI is crucial. That's why we led and launched our flagship project, with a consortium of civil society organisations in the Global South, the Global Index on Responsible AI (GIRAI).

GIRAI, the first study of its kind, moves beyond the parameters of innovation and investment, by collecting primary data in over 140 countries (including 41 countries in Africa and other underrepresented regions), by employing human-rights based benchmarks to address critical data gaps.

### A breakthrough year

In June 2024, after three years of collaborative efforts with our global research network, we launched the first edition of GIRAI: a multifaceted launch, with bustling activity from our team, regional research hubs and media.

Offline, we showcased GIRAI on stage at the Global Digital Development Forum in Washington, securing global coverage in over 70 news articles and blog posts including features in Politico, Tech Policy Press, ICTWorks, Digital Overheid and Paréntesis Media.

Online, we launched the report alongside an interactive website, which worked hand-in-hand to make the findings accessible to diverse, relevant audiences through a comprehensive communications strategy and dissemination activities.

### A step-change in the governance of responsible AI

The journey towards the launch of the index bolstered our values and commitments to attracting and nurturing talent across the Global South and championing excellence in research. We did this through:

#### 1. Covering a breadth of countries and

**jurisdictions:** GIRAI's data collection encompassed 138 countries and jurisdictions, including 41 African nations often underrepresented in global indices. This broad coverage ensures the index reflects diverse geographical, cultural, and socio-economic contexts.

#### 2. Setting a new standard for human rights

**focused research:** Developed through extensive consultations and pilot studies, GIRAI's measurement framework integrates human rights standards and democratic governance principles. It features 19 thematic areas assessed across three dimensions: Responsible AI Governance, Human Rights & AI, and National AI Capacities.

#### 3. Employing comprehensive training programs:

Comprising 11 Regional Research Hubs and over 140 country-level researchers exemplifies GIRAI's commitment to empowering local expertise. Our training programs bolstered the capacity of researchers to navigate complex AI governance issues from a human rights perspective.

#### 4. Launching regional reports:

The GIRAI team along with several Regional Hubs worked on seven substantial thematic and regional reports based on GIRAI data and insights. The series, [Human Rights and AI: A Global Index on Responsible AI Analytical Report Series](#), interrogated a number of issues including, the global landscape of responsible AI, to the rule of law, cultural and linguistic diversity, and gender equality. Specific briefs are accessible in the outputs section of this report at page 44.

## Expanded reach and recognition

### Regional engagement

From Asia to the Caribbean, a vibrant series of in-person and virtual regional events took place to build on the launch of the First Edition of the GIRAI report and website. Regional hubs included:

- The COI International Artificial Intelligence Conference (Caribbean),
- KNUST South-South Migration

Network (Africa)

- COI – School of Digital Transformation and Innovation in the Caribbean (Caribbean)
- ILDA – Semana de la Inteligencia Artificial (Latam)
- IDFI (Eastern Europe & Central Asia)
- GRAG (Africa)
- LDRI (Africa)
- Derechos Digitales (Latam)
- Open Development Cambodia (Latam)
- The Asia Foundation (Asia)
- UNDP (Asia), LIRNEAsia (Asia)
- Global Network July Initiative and;
- The U.S. Department of State – Bureau of Cyberspace and Digital Policy.

### Global impact

GIRAI has already played a crucial role in shaping national and international AI governance.

Its data has informed Colombia's draft National AI Policy and Kenya's draft National Artificial Intelligence Strategy 2025-2030, as trusted evidence for proposed approaches towards governance:

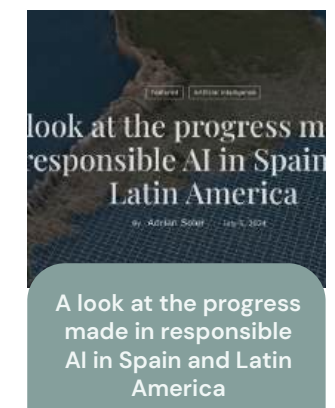
Within the international policy ecosystem, GIRAI has been cited in nine UNESCO RAM reports, including

those of Kenya, Rwanda, Mauritius, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, and South Africa. UNESCO's Flagship Report on [Women for Ethical AI](#), also draws extensively on GIRAI's findings on gender equality and AI.

Grounded in primary data, GIRAI serves as a valuable reference for other global indices. The [Latam Index on AI](#) (ILIA) draws on GIRAI as a secondary indicator for its governance dimension, while the Oxford Insights [Government AI Readiness Index 2024](#) incorporates GIRAI data on public sector AI skills development.

## Ten takeaways, four languages, one global vision

The First Edition Report distills essential global insights on responsible AI governance, human rights, and national capacities, highlighting ten key takeaways. In line with our values of accessibility and collaboration, it has been translated into four languages: English, French, Spanish, and Portuguese.





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# Other Funded Activities

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# Expanding our Research with Brilliant Partners

## Gates Foundation

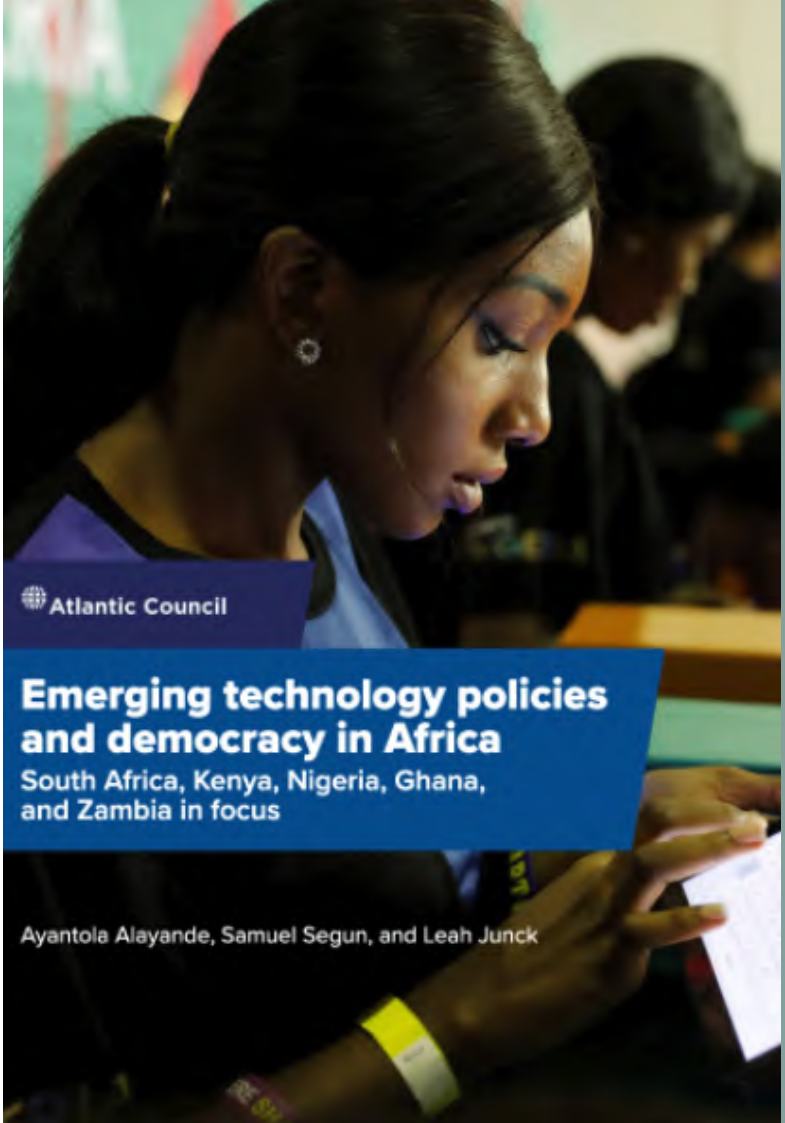
Exploring the Role of Generative AI in Addressing Developmental Challenges

GCG was appointed by the Gates Foundation to lead a consortium of experts from the Majority World (Digital Futures Lab, India, and Institute for Technology and Society of Rio De Janeiro, Brazil) on the development of journal articles for submission to Nature as part of a Nature Special Collection exploring the role of generative AI in addressing developmental challenges. As part of the process, consortium experts supported the 2023 Grand Challenges cohort with research, review, and writing support to develop high-quality academic outputs for submission to Nature. Over 50 articles were generated with at least 10 expected to be published in 2025. Nature is one of the foremost academic publications in the world and the bar for publication is set very high. This represents a significant accomplishment and will give the grantees the opportunity to have their work showcased to a global academic and research focused audience.

In addition to the above, grantees were given the opportunity to showcase their work on the Gates Open Research website, where a dedicated gateway was created to house all of their works in an online compendium. More details on these grantees' efforts to create meaningful solutions to topical challenges in the developing world through the use of generative AI, is available [here](#).

Finally, GCG is due to publish a public report on the role of generative AI in addressing development challenges in LMICs, alongside the launch of the Nature Special Collection. This report is a collection of insights garnered from expert support of the Grand Challenges awardees and specifically addresses whether GenAI technologies have utility for addressing socio-economic challenges in LMICs, whether GenAI technologies are safe for use in LMIC contexts, and what the barriers to safe, equitable and inclusive use of GenAI technologies to address major socio-economic challenges in LMICs are.

To receive updates on the launch of the report, subscribe to our [mailing list](#).



## Atlantic Council

Emerging Technology Policies and Democracy in Africa

In 2024 GCG was commissioned by the Atlantic Council to produce a report on Emerging technology policies and democracy in Africa: South Africa, Kenya, Nigeria, Ghana, and Zambia in focus. The Final Report was released in March 2025 and is available for download on the Atlantic Council's website. The report was authored by Ayantola Alayande, Samuel Segun, and Leah Junck, with contributions from Fola Adeleke, Selamawit Abdella, Rachel Adams, Mark Gaffley, and Funbi Salami.

The report considered emerging technologies in five African countries and sought to understand how they are navigating their governance to enrich citizens' living whilst being cognisant of the potential risks. Three key domains were explored, including connectivity, digital public infrastructure, and artificial intelligence.

[Download the Report](#)

## Meta

AI in Africa: A Landscape Study

The second major report released by GCG was commissioned by Meta. Our team was requested to develop a comprehensive report on the current landscape of AI in Africa, exploring both opportunities and challenges to its effective implementation. The report also examines existing governance frameworks, economic trends and growth potentials, as well as the roles of different stakeholders in facilitating ethical, equitable and risk-responsive digital systems. As part of the project outputs, GCG also produced three policy briefs on AI and Sustainable Development, the Implications of Open Source Large Language Models on Responsible AI Development in Africa and Strengthening Africa's AI Ecosystem through Open Source Innovation and Policy Alignment. These were launched via curated webinars in 2025. The recorded webinars can be watched [here](#).

Since launch, the report has been widely circulated and has gathered substantial interest online.

[Download the Report](#)





## Advancing Inclusive AI Policy Across Continents and Communities

### Technical Leadership and Appointments

Over the past year, several members of the GCG team were appointed to national and regional technical committees, reflecting growing recognition of the team's deep expertise and trusted leadership. These appointments have created meaningful opportunities to shape AI policymaking across Africa.

Notable appointments include:

#### Nigeria's AI Strategy

Fola Adeleke was appointed to a committee set up by the Nigerian Minister of Communications and Digital Economy to develop the country's national AI strategy. The strategy was publicly released in August 2024.

#### South Africa's AI Strategy

Rachel Adams, Fola Adeleke, and Mark Gaffley were appointed to the Working Group formed by South Africa's Council for Scientific and Industrial Research to lead the development of the country's National AI Strategy. Within this group, Fola Adeleke chairs the Trust and Regulation workstream.

#### African Commission on Human and People's Rights

Adams and Adeleke were appointed as expert contributors to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights process to explore the human rights implications of AI, robotics and other emerging technologies. Both participated in a [validation workshop](#) (May 2024), with Adeleke providing further inputs at an [additional meeting](#) (October 2024).

#### African Union Continental Strategy on AI

Adams was invited as an expert panellist to a two-day policy engagement symposium convening AI policy leaders from the OECD and

African Union, where she contributed to co-authoring an analysis on '[Deliberate, Inclusive AI Policies to Empower Women in Africa](#).' In addition, Adams was appointed co-lead drafter of the [African Union's Continental Strategy on AI](#) (August 2024).

#### OECD-AU Blueprint for AU AI Strategy Implementation

Adams and Adeleke participated as expert contributors at a three-day interactive workshop, to discuss opportunities to implement Africa's Continental AI Strategy, in alignment with common frameworks for ethical and trustworthy AI (November 2024). A key outcome of the workshop was the development of the African Charter on Trustworthy AI – a framework for responsible AI, grounded in and contextualised for Africa

#### W20 South Africa

Adams was appointed to the Women20 (W20) G20 Engagement Group under the 2025 South Africa Presidency, where she will work towards the Women20 dialogue. As an official G20 engagement group, W20 is dedicated to promoting gender equality and women's economic empowerment.

### Africa-Asia AI Policy Maker Network (AAPoMaNet)

GCG is proud to announce that it has been appointed as the Secretariat for AAPoMaNet in 2025 and looks forward to facilitating more open dialogues between countries as part of this important network and realizing its vision, mission, and goals of the network in 2025 and beyond.

From 15-17 October 2024, the third in-person convening of AAPoMaNet was hosted in Naivasha, Kenya. AAPoMaNet is an initiative supported by FAIR Forward – Artificial Intelligence for All (FAIR), implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). AAPoMaNet was first conceived as part of a capacity building and peer-learning programme for policymakers, in 2021. It is now

composed of government officials from seven countries, including Ghana, Kenya, Rwanda, South Africa, Uganda, Telangana State in India, and Indonesia.

GCG team members, Rachel Adams and Mark Gaffley were integral in the original conception of the programme and the organisation is proud to once again be affiliated with AAPoMaNet. Its continued existence is a response to a desire from participating countries to maintain cross-border peer exchange to drive local AI innovation and understanding. It serves as a useful platform to explore and promote responsible AI. At the convening in Naivasha, policymakers tackled topics of international and regional AI governance frameworks, generative AI, capacity building, future network activities, and had the opportunity to share with colleagues the details of the work they were doing with AI in their respective countries.







# Rallying a Global Collective of Change-Makers

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In 2024, we had the privilege of collaborating with a remarkable number of talented organisations worldwide, whose expertise and insights have been invaluable to our work. We also extend our deepest gratitude to our funders, whose continued trust and support have made everything we do possible.

GIRAI and AORAI stand as cornerstone projects within the AI4Development (AI4D) programme. We are proud to be active members of the vibrant AI4D Africa community and to have contributed to the launch of its new [website](#), which highlights the impactful work of African researchers, innovators, and educators using AI to improve lives across the continent.

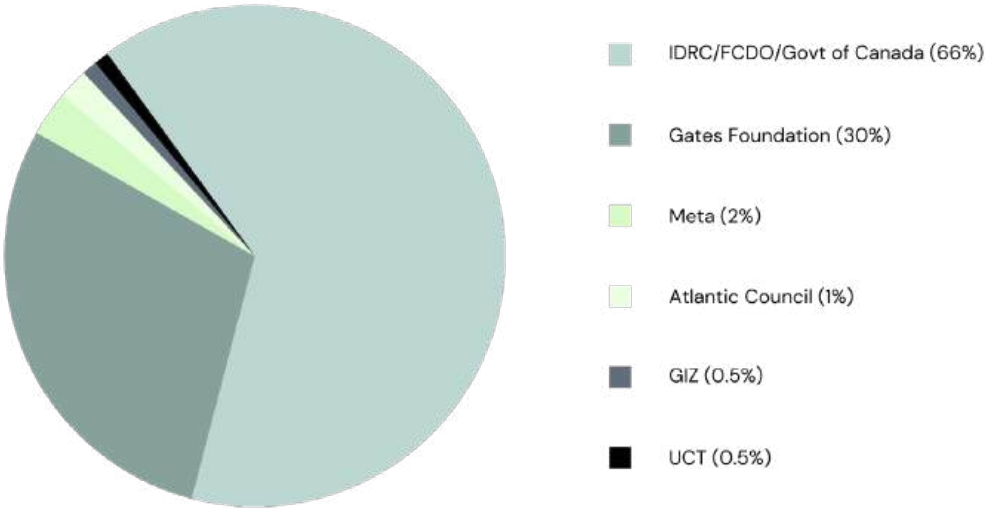
Partners

- Balkan Investigative Reporting Regional Network, Serbia
- Birzeit University, Palestine
- Caribbean Open Institute, Jamaica
- Concordia University, Canada
- Derechos Digitales
- Digital Futures Lab, India
- Global Research and Advocacy Group, Senegal
- Iniciativa Latinoamericana por los Datos Abiertos, Uruguay
- Institute for Development of Freedom of Information, Georgia
- Local Development Research Institute, Kenya
- LIRNEasia, Sri Lanka
- Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana
- META

Funders

- International Development Research Centre
- Government of Canada
- Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office
- Gates Foundation
- Atlantic Council
- META
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
- University of Cape Town

Funding Split



Fola Adeleke and Rachel Adams at the African Commission on Human and People’s Rights Expert Validation Meeting on a Draft Study on Human Rights, AI , Robotics and Other New and Emerging Technologies in Africa.



An aerial photograph of a river delta, showing intricate patterns of sandbars, channels, and water. The right half of the image is covered by a solid teal-colored rectangle, which serves as a background for the title text.

# Empowering our Mission Through Strong Governance

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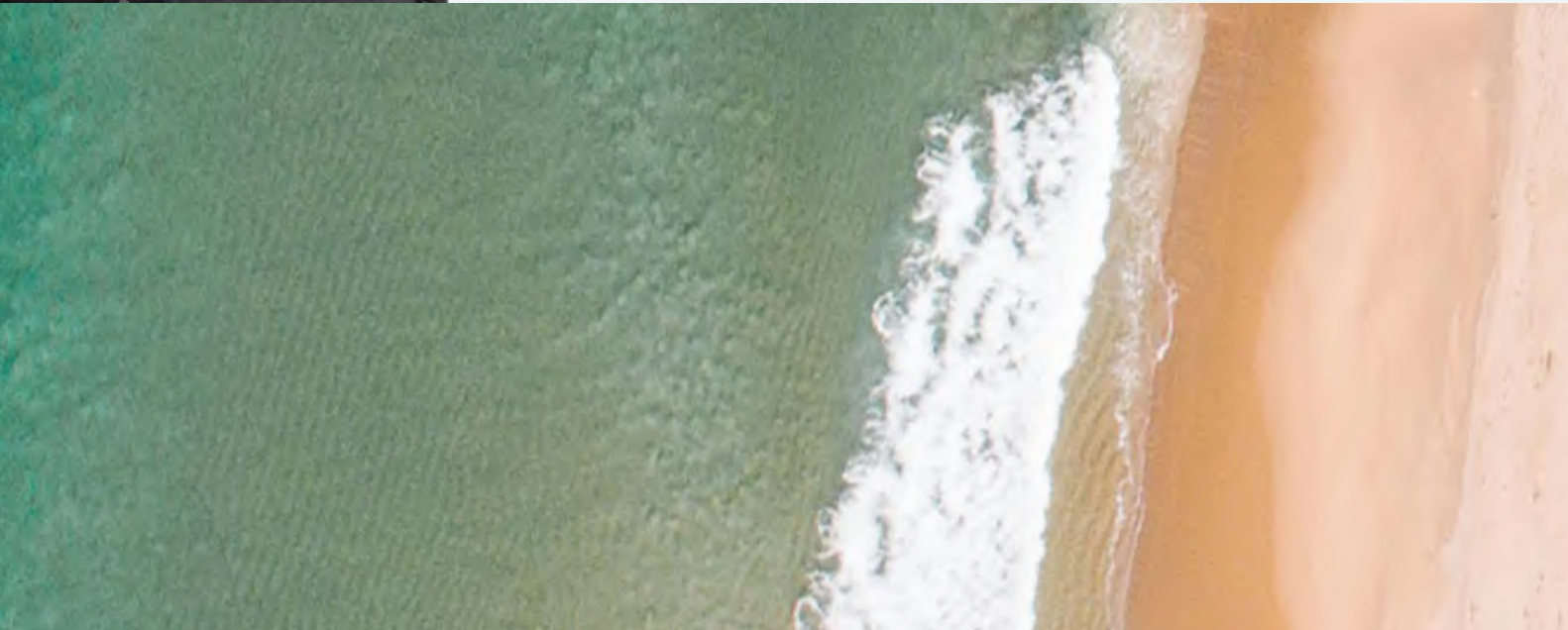
# Meet our Board of Directors



## Prof. Crain Soudien

Emeritus Professor Crain Soudien’s lifelong research has focused on the sociology of education. His work looks at social difference, with particular attention to the questions of race, class and gender. He is currently writing a history of the idea of race. This will be his fourth book. He has also co-edited more than seven books and published over 210 articles, reviews, reports and book chapters.

Soudien – who is a professor in UCT’s School of Education – has been honoured as an Extraordinary Professor at the University of Pretoria and holds an honorary professorship at Nelson Mandela University.



## Rachel Adams

Rachel Adams, PhD, is the Founding CEO of the Global Centre on AI Governance. She is the author of *The New Empire of AI: The Future of Global Inequality* (Polity Press, 2024). She is an Assistant Research Professor of the Leverhulme Center for the Future of Intelligence, University of Cambridge, and an Honorary Research Fellow of The Ethics Lab at the University of Cape Town. She holds degrees in English Literature, International Human Rights Law and Philosophy. Her PhD was published as a book: *Transparency: New Trajectories in Law* (Routledge, 2020).



## Prof. Fola Adeleke

Prof. Fola Adeleke is the Executive Director and co-founder of the Global Center on AI Governance. Fola leads our knowledge hub, the African Observatory on Responsible AI. He holds a PhD in international investment law and human rights from the University of Witwatersrand and completed his post-doctoral research as a Fulbright Scholar at the Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment, Columbia University and the Human Rights Program, Harvard University.

He is an Associate Professor at Wits Law School and Atlantic Senior Fellow on Social Equity at the London School of Economics. Fola serves as a Commissioner for the Lancet Commission on AI and HIV and the Human Rights Commission in Nova Scotia, Canada. His research focuses on data protection, transparency, and corporate accountability. He coordinates AI Ethics and Human Rights certificate programs at the University of Cape Town and the University of Pretoria and is a member of the Nova Scotia Bar. Fola was a Mo Ibrahim Residential Fellow in 2015.





An aerial photograph of a coastal landscape. A river flows from the top left towards the center, meeting a sandy beach. To the right of the beach is a dense, green forested area. The water is a deep blue-grey color. The overall scene is captured from a high angle, showing the intricate patterns of the land and water.

# AI Governance Through the Prism of Global Majority Voices

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2024 Outputs (March 2024 – February 2025)

Beyond our two flagship projects, the GCG team dedicated 2024 to producing a rich and diverse body of work – ranging from insightful analysis pieces and comprehensive reports to peer-reviewed academic publications shared across the globe. While much of our focus centres on AI governance challenges in the developing world, the scope of our inquiry in 2024 has been broad and nuanced, spanning topics such as AI's role in the military domain, geopolitical issues, and AI ethics questions shaped by the perspectives of the Global Majority.

Our team has also been integral to developing special collections, some include: [Data & Policy – Artificial Intelligence, Ethics and Policy Governance in Africa](#) (Cambridge University Press) and [AI in Society – AI in the Majority World](#) (Oxford Academic). Both are recognised for their high impact and influence. In total, we published over 50 outputs throughout the year.

Carrying these distinctly Global South perspectives into global dialogues, we were honoured to be invited to participate in more than 70 events and webinars worldwide. Many of these engagements have been recorded and are available below, with more to come on our newly launched [YouTube channel](#).

Analysis Pieces			
No.	Title	Author(s)	Publication Date & Platform
1.	Introducing the Global Center on AI Governance (GCG)	Rachel Adams	13 May 2024 (GCG Website)
2.	What is AI Governance? An African Response	Rachel Adams	13 May 2024 (GCG Website)
3.	Why is Global Measurement Important	Nicolas Grossman	13 May 2024 (GCG Website)
4.	Unlocking Human Centered AI: Building Inclusive Futures Through Community Engagement	Leah Junck	13 May 2024 (GCG Website)
5.	What Does it Look Like to Develop AI Policies in Africa	Fola Adeleke	15 May 2024 (GCG Website)
6.	Africa's AI Future in the Context of the US-China AI Race	Ebrahim Deen	4 June 2024 (GCG Website)
7.	Emerging African Dialogues on AI and Development	Selamwit Engida Abdella	22 August 2024 (GCG Website)
8.	Bridging the AI Divide: Governance and Collaboration in Responsible AI in the Military Domain	Rachel Adams	10 September 2024 (GCG Website)
9.	AI and International Trade: Optimizing the Potential for Africa's AI Economy	Fola Adeleke	16 September 2024 (GCG Website)
10.	AI and International Trade: Unlocking the Potential of Africa's AI Economy	Sally Kuria	25 September 2025 (GCG Website)
11.	The African Union Startup Model Law Framework at a Glance	Fola Adeleke, Ayantola Alayande	10 October 2024 (GCG Website)
12.	The Outsized Role of African Civil Society and Universities in Advancing Responsible AI	Rachel Adams, Ana Florido	28 October 2024 (GCG Website)
13.	Geopolitics of AI: Africa's Role in a Shifting Global Landscape	Rachel Adams	28 Nov 2024 (GCG Website)
14.	How Do We Foster Inclusive and Collaborative AI Policy Research	Ayantola Alayande	28 Nov 2024 (GCG Website)

15.	Data Privacy and Responsible AI Adoption in Cameroon	Marcelle Momha	17 January 2025 (GCG website)
16.	Fostering Responsible AI in Security and Defence Domain	Samuel Segun	31 January 2025 (GCG website)
17.	Unscripted or the Familiar Strange: On Anthropology, Tech Failures and AI Curiosities	Leah Junck	18 February 2025 (GCG website)
18.	Bridging Worlds: The Role of Digital Anthropology in Shaping Fair Tech Futures	Leah Junck	20 February (GCG website)
19.	The Global Security Risks of Open-Source AI Models	Samuel Segun	21 February 2025 (UNODA Blog/GCG website)

Research Reports and Outputs		
No.	Title	Author(s)
1.	AI and Exclusion in Public Digital Systems	Gabriella Razzano
2.	Taking AI Ethics From Principles to Practice: A Guide to Implementing Responsible AI	Samuel Segun
3.	Responsible AI Governance in Africa: Prospects for Outcomes Based Regulation	Fola Adeleke, Funbi Akinwale
4.	AI for Women's Financial Inclusion: Analysis of Product Design and Policy Approaches in Nigeria	Adekemi Omotubora
5.	Submission to the UN Global Advisory Committee	Kelly Stone, Fola Adeleke, Rachel Adams
6.	African Observatory on Responsible AI Project Report 2021-2023	Rachel Adams, Fola Adeleke, Mark Gaffley, Samuel Segun
7.	2024 Global Index on Responsible AI	Rachel Adams, Fola Adeleke, Ana Florido, Larissa Galdino de Magalhães Santos, Nicolas Grossman, Leah Junck, Kelly Stone
8.	Africa Now has a Continental AI Strategy: What's Next?	Ayantola Alayande, Rachel Adams
9.	Navigating Labor Protections in the Era of AI: Insights from the Global South	Fola Adeleke, Leah Junck, Nicolas Grossman
10.	Artificial Intelligence and Religion: Investigating Perceptions: Ethics, Practices and the Role of Religious Actors in Senegal	Khalifa Diop, Rachid ID Yassine
11.	Emerging Technology Policies and Democracy in Africa: South Africa, Kenya, Nigeria, Ghana and Zambia in Focus	Ayantola Alayande, Samuel Segun, Leah Junck
12.	The State of AI in Africa: A Landscape Study	Rachel Adams, Fola Adeleke, Leah Junck, Samuel Segun, Ayantola Alayande, Selamawit Engida Abdella, Mark Gaffley, Fabio Andrés Pabón, Funbi Salami
13.	Preliminary Insights: How the GIRAI Can Inform Policy and Programmatic Delivery	Jayant Narayan
14.	Brief 1: Overview and Introduction	Selamawit Engida Abdella
15.	Brief 2: Global Landscape	Selamawit Engida Abdella
16.	Brief 3: Socioeconomic Development	Selamawit Engida Abdella
17.	Brief 4: Rule of Law	Selamawit Engida Abdella



18.	Brief 5: Cultural and Linguistic Diversity	Aishat Salami
19.	Brief 6: Gender Equality	Kelle Howson
20.	Concluding Reflections: Lessons in Measuring Responsible AI	Faisal M. Lalani

Peer Reviewed Academic Publications			
No.	Title	Author(s)	Publication Date & Platform
1.	<a href="#">AI for Women's Financial Inclusion – Analysis of Product Design and Policy Approaches in Nigeria</a>	Adekemi Omotubora	5 December 2024 (Cambridge University Press)
2.	<a href="#">Should we communicate with the dead to assuage our grief? An Ubuntu perspective on using griefbots</a>	Connor Wright	22 November 2024 (Cambridge University Press)
3.	<a href="#">Are Certain African Ethical Values at Risk from Artificial Intelligence?</a>	Samuel Segun	5 December 2024 (Cambridge University Press)
4.	<a href="#">The Ethics At The Intersection Of Artificial Intelligence And Transhumanism: A Personhood–Based Approach</a>	Amara Chimakonam	2 December 2024 (Cambridge University Press)
5.	<a href="#">Social Justice Considerations in Developing and Deploying AI in Africa</a>	Elefelious Belay; Hailemariam Getachew Mengesha; Rachel Adams	4 December 2024 (Cambridge University Press)
6.	<a href="#">Trust Norms for Generative AI Data Gathering in the African Context</a>	Abiola Azeez	9 December 2024 (Cambridge University Press)
7.	<a href="#">Responsible artificial intelligence in Africa: Towards policy learning</a>	Paul Plantinga; Kristophina Shilongo; Oarabile Mudongo; Angelique Umubyeyi; Michael Gastrow; Gabriella Razzano	9 December 2024 (Cambridge University Press)
8.	<a href="#">Artificial Intelligence, Digital Colonialism and the Implications for Africa's Future Development</a>	Aishat Salami	4 December 2024 (Cambridge University Press)
9.	<a href="#">Case Studies of AI Policy Development in Africa</a>	Jonathan Smith; Kadijatou Diallo; Chinasa Okolo; Dorcas Nyamwaya; Jonas Kgomo; Richard Ngamita	10 February 2025 (Cambridge University Press)

Published RAM Report			
No.	Country	Lead Country Expert(s)	Release Date/Year
1.	<b>Kenya</b>	Diana Nyakundi	2025
2.	<b>South Africa</b>	Nokuthula Olorunju	2025

# Gallery





Dr Leah Junck at the Technology Dialogue 2025: Exploring New Frontiers in Technology Diplomacy at the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, India.



Delegates at the Wilton Park event, December 2024



Dr Fola Adeleke pictured at a high level event the African Observatory co-hosted with Google, UK Development (FCDO), Wilton Park, and the African Leadership University. Wiston House, United Kingdom.



Dr Fola Adeleke at the 2024 World Trade Organization Public Forum on the panel "AI for Trade: Maximizing Benefits, Minimizing Risks"



Dr Rachel Adams at the high level event the African Observatory co-hosted with Google, UK Development (FCDO), Wilton Park, and the African Leadership University. Wiston House, United Kingdom.



Dr Samuel Segun presenting the keynote talk at the Trust & Influence Program, organised by the US Air Force Office of Scientific Research





Dr Samuel Segun presenting the keynote talk at the Trust & Influence Program, organised by the US Air Force Office of Scientific Research



Mark Gaffley and Shyline Muthoni at the International Institute of Communications Botswana Forum 2024



Dr Rachel Adams at the REAIMSummit 2024 in Seoul, speaking on the pressing need for equitable and secure AI use in the military domain



Mark Gaffley at the International Institute of Communications Botswana Forum 2024



Shyline Muthoni presenting at the Africa-Asia AI Policymaker Annual Conference, hosted by GIZ. Lake Naivasha, Kenya.



Dr Fola Adeleke at the Africa AI Stakeholder meeting in Rwanda, organized by the Center for Law and Innovation at the Certa Foundation. Fola presented on trends in AI governance in Africa.



Sally Kuria and Daphine Nkunda in Kenya, January 2024



Dr Fola Adeleke and Ayantola Alayanda in the United Kingdom, 2024.





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