



REPORT

AI for social good and Africa's strategic choices

Brussels

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EBCAM attended the conference for AI for social good and Africa's strategic choices organised by the ECDPM in Brussels on 16 October 2025. This event launched a **three-paper series** exploring how **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** is being applied across **Africa's health, agriculture, and education sectors**.

The session began with a presentation on *"Realising the potential of AI for diagnostics in Africa: From barriers to scalability"*, followed by a panel discussion on *"Navigating global offers and Africa's strategic choices."* The discussion highlighted how African governments and partners can **scale promising AI use cases** while managing risks such as **digital inequality, data exploitation, and job displacement**. Participants emphasised the need to **strengthen local AI ecosystems, attract investment** through **public-private partnerships**, and **safeguard digital sovereignty**. The event concluded with a networking session.

Panellists:

- Dr. Melody Musoni, Senior Policy Analyst, ECDPM
- Dr. Jane Munga, Fellow, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace
- Amb-Prof Bitange Ndemo, Ambassador of Kenya to the EU and Belgium
- Dr. Maja Fjaestad, Policy Officer, European Commission AI Office
- Dr. Koen Hufkens, Founder, BlueGreen Labs

During the opening presentation, **Melody Musoni (ECDPM)** framed the "AI for Social Good" initiative as an effort to **spotlight African-led solutions** that address African challenges, with a focus on opportunities for **underserved and marginalised communities**. She outlined barriers to developing an *"African AI stack"*, including gaps in **infrastructure, data access, connectivity, digital skills, regulation, and financing**.

Key findings by sector:

- **Agriculture:** AI innovation is still at an early stage but shows strong potential in **early warning systems** (e.g., weather, yield, and disease prediction) and **advisory services** (e.g., extension training, financial literacy). National strategies increasingly prioritise AI in agriculture, though more **policy support** is needed for **research, innovation, and farmer-facing solutions**.
- **Health:** Emerging AI diagnostic tools are improving **access and accuracy** in healthcare for marginalised populations. Yet, progress is uneven—most tools are **English-language based**, raising **localisation and equity challenges**. A comprehensive approach is required to ensure **contextualised and inclusive AI development**.
- **Education:** AI in education (AIED) holds promise for **personalised learning, assistive technologies** (e.g., speech-to-text), and **teacher support**, but faces barriers in **policy direction, digital infrastructure, user rights, and equity**. Governments, educators, and private actors all play critical roles in shaping a fair and effective AIED landscape.



Cross-cutting challenges discussed included Africa's **limited computing infrastructure**, **unreliable electricity**, **poor internet connectivity**, **data gaps**, **high costs of digital tools**, and **capacity deficits**. Despite these obstacles, participants expressed optimism given **growing political will**, a **youthful population**, and **international interest in AI collaboration** between Africa and the EU.

