



UNDP-UNESCO Joint Collaboration

Artificial Intelligence Assessments

In an era of technological transformation, governments must both navigate the potential risks and harness the benefits of artificial intelligence (AI) across society and the economy.

The United Nations can play a key role in supporting countries leverage AI safely and responsibly to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and leave no one behind.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) are leading pioneering efforts to support countries in assessing and enhancing their readiness for responsible AI integration, ensuring that AI deployments are beneficial and equitable across all sectors of society.

Drawing from their respective strengths and expertise, the two agencies are working together to offer governments the following tools and support:

UNDP

Artificial Intelligence Landscape Assessment

The **UNDP Artificial Intelligence Landscape Assessment (AILA)** is a strategic tool to evaluate a country's readiness to integrate AI technologies within governmental frameworks. AILA's primary objective is to help governments harness the benefits of AI to transform public service delivery and stimulate use of AI for the broader economy, while managing the risks associated with its deployment, particularly focusing on:

- Government as a User
- Government as an Enabler
- Ethical AI

With a presence on the ground in over 170 countries, UNDP country offices, supported by UNDP's Chief Digital Office, convene stakeholders to assess the current AI landscape through surveys and key informant interviews. The AILA provides a snapshot of the capabilities and the gaps within a country's AI ecosystem, facilitating tailored recommendations for improvement and strategic investment. Through validation and visioning workshops, it can help guide decision making and identify next steps, leveraging additional support from the UN System and development partners.

UNESCO

Readiness Assessment Methodology

Taking a deeper dive into the ethical dimensions of AI governance, the **UNESCO's Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM)** is a comprehensive diagnostic tool directly linked with the global standard: the Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence, adopted by 193 Member States. As mandated by the Recommendation, the RAM provides comprehensive diagnostics and policy guidance to countries on how to build and optimize AI governance frameworks. RAM helps ensure the alignment of national policies and practices with the global instrument by assessing readiness across five different dimensions:

- Legal
- Social/Cultural
- Scientific/Educational
- Economic
- Technical and Infrastructural

The RAM exercise is a multistakeholder collaborative process engaging national and global actors in a structured research and analytical process under UNESCO's guidance. The process leads to a strategic national report with actionable policy recommendations and a roadmap, setting the stage for the customized follow-up action to strengthen human capital, build national institutions and implement and upgrade policies and regulatory frameworks.

The complementary potential of the UNDP AILA and UNESCO RAM offers countries a holistic approach to AI readiness and ethical integration. By leveraging the strengths of both methodologies, nations can create a more robust and comprehensive AI strategy and approach that not only emphasizes technical readiness but also ensures ethical governance.

UNESCO and UNDP are joining forces to implement these two complementary tools and methodologies in order to better support governments. **This includes deep collaboration at the country level**, sharing of technical expertise and knowledge, workshops and collective inputs into studies to facilitate cross-pollination across technical teams and national stakeholders, and the sharing of best practices and guidance.

This collaborative environment for comprehensive strategy development will enable the integration of action plans that address both sets of recommendations, including possible oversight committees that include experts from across development partners with both technical and ethical AI specialization, and the creation of joint monitoring mechanisms to ensure that AI deployments continue to meet both readiness and ethical standards.

Through this strategic collaboration, UNDP and UNESCO plan to support governments to drive the AI journey in their countries, drawing upon technical know-how at the national level, and informed by global coordination and perspectives.

This partnership not only enhances the effectiveness of AI initiatives but also ensures that they are conducted in a manner that is beneficial to all sections of society, reinforcing the commitment to ethical AI development globally.