



2026 High-Level Political Forum Side Event

HUMANITY AT THE CENTER

GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP, ETHICAL AI, AND THE WATER-ENERGY-FOOD NEXUS FOR TRANSFORMATIVE SDG ACTION

JULY 10, FRI. 2026

PART 1 - 1:15~2:30pm EDT
Conference Room 3
United Nations HQ, New York

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PART 2 - 2:45~4:00 PM
EXPERT PANEL DISCUSSION
AFTER LIGHT REFRESHMENTS AND NETWORKING
AT THE ROK MISSION TO THE UN



**HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**



Co-organized by:

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations, IVECA International Virtual Schooling, Incheon Metropolitan City Office of Education East Asia Global Education Institute (IEGI), the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), the United Nations Office for Sustainable Development (UNOSD), CoNGO & GNEC

#2026HLPF #AforHumanity #IVECA #UNOSD

CONCEPT NOTE

BACKGROUND

As we enter the final stretch of the **2030 Agenda**, a defining paradox is becoming increasingly clear: AI and digital technologies are advancing faster than governance systems can manage them equitably, while climate disruption, rising inequality, forced displacement, and widening digital divides continue to intensify across borders. According to the UNHCR 2024 Global Trends Report, 123.2 million people were forcibly displaced worldwide by the end of 2024, with an estimated 4.4 million more remaining stateless or without recognized nationality.

On the positive side, AI is already contributing to sustainable development through innovations in **smart water management, clean energy, circular urban economies, and environmental protection**. Advances in machine learning, digital twins, agent-based modeling, and smart systems are emerging as powerful tools for integrated **water-energy-food (WEF) nexus** planning. When supported by deliberate policy design, **cross-sectoral coordination, and equitable partnerships**, these technologies can strengthen institutional capacity and help align innovation with the common good.

At the same time, AI is generating serious risks and **sustainability pressures**. Its rapid expansion is driving growing demands for water and energy, creating feedback loops that intersect directly with global development goals. AI is also being deployed in harmful ways, including surveillance systems and conflict applications, while uneven AI readiness and limited institutional capacity can **deepen inequality** rather than reduce it. This dual-use reality underscores that the central issue is not whether AI is used, but how it is governed, by whom, and according to what values, with safeguards that **ensure it protects human dignity**.

The converging opportunities and risks contribute to the relevance of two complementary frameworks. **Global citizenship**, grounded in **human dignity, intercultural understanding, mutual respect, justice, and shared responsibility**, provides the moral and civic architecture within which technology, governance, and innovation can be aligned with **inclusive human values**. The WEF nexus offers an integrated analytical lens for understanding how resource systems are interdependent: water is essential for energy production and food security, energy is required for water treatment and food systems, and food production shapes water availability and energy demand. Together, these frameworks move governance and innovation beyond fragmented sectoral approaches toward coherent, values-centered, and coordinated action.

Recent landmark frameworks, including the Pact for the Future, the Global Digital Compact, and UNESCO's revised Recommendation on Education for Peace, Human Rights and Sustainable Development, affirm that **inclusive and responsible digital transformation** must be rooted in human values. **Education** is therefore an indispensable foundation. By integrating global citizenship education with digital and AI literacy, education systems can cultivate generations of responsible innovators who engage with technology as active, ethical agents. Digitally facilitated **intercultural virtual exchange programs**, connecting students across countries through collaborative problem-solving and co-created SDG projects, demonstrate this approach in practice. Private sector innovation in **smart water systems (SDG 6), clean and circular energy (SDG 7), sustainable infrastructure (SDG 9), and inclusive cities (SDG 11)**, when aligned with global citizenship principles and WEF nexus thinking, shows how technology and human values can mutually reinforce one another.

CONCEPT NOTE

INTRODUCTION

Convened by Member States, UN entities, civil society, private sector innovators, and youth from around the world, this event responds directly to the 2026 HLPF theme: “Transformative, equitable, innovative and coordinated actions for the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs for a sustainable future for all.” It is action-oriented and distinctive: presenters will demonstrate concrete, scalable solutions already in practice or ready for implementation, rather than proposing them in the abstract.

Through digitally facilitated global exchange, youth innovators from countries across Asia, Africa, and the Americas will present AI-enabled, locally grounded solutions addressing water efficiency (SDG 6), clean energy adoption (SDG 7), and urban resilience (SDGs 9 and 11). Private sector leaders will demonstrate deployment-ready innovations, including vertical farming systems using up to 95% less water (SDG 6), and a circular waste-to-energy model in Kyrgyzstan converting municipal waste into affordable clean energy to power AI-enabled smart agriculture and urban systems (SDGs 7, 9, and 11). Technical experts and government representatives will illustrate how integrated WEF nexus governance and ethical AI policy frameworks can generate multiplier effects across sustainable development goals.

The session will feature youth innovators alongside Member State ambassadors, UN experts, high-level officials from UNESCO and the UN Assistant Secretary-General for Youth Affairs, scholars from higher education, and private-sector leaders in sustainable agriculture and circular energy. It also introduces an innovative human-AI collaborative dialogue model that enhances inclusive multilateral exchange without displacing human judgment. Convened by the Republic of Korea and co-organized with IVECA, IEGL, UNOSD, UNDESA, CoNGO, and GNEC, with engagement from Member States, this event models SDG 17 in practice: a multi-stakeholder partnership integrating education, innovation ecosystems, and integrated resource governance to support scalable SDG implementation across diverse national contexts.

EVENT OBJECTIVES

- Demonstrate how **digitally facilitated global collaborative education** cultivates ethically grounded, AI-literate global citizens.
- Showcase **scalable private sector innovations** in clean water (SDG 6), affordable energy (SDG 7), sustainable infrastructure (SDG 9), and inclusive cities (SDG 11), aligned with **global citizenship principles and WEF nexus thinking**, and designed for **equitable impact**.
- Examine how AI and emerging digital tools, including machine learning, digital twins, and smart systems, can **strengthen integrated WEF nexus governance and urban resilience**.
- Identify and share **practical, actionable pathways for coordinated action** across governments, UN entities, civil society, the private sector, and education systems to advance global citizenship, ethical AI, and integrated resource governance in support of SDG implementation.
- Model **responsible human-AI collaboration in multilateral dialogue** through an AI-supported facilitation approach, demonstrating how technology can enhance inclusive, values-driven decision-making without replacing human judgment.

AGENDA

PART 1 CONFERENCE ROOM #3, THE UN HEADQUARTERS

TIME	EVENT
1:15–1:17 pm	WELCOMING <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Chun Kyoo Park, Head of Office, United Nations Office for Sustainable Development (UNOSD)• Ms. Mi Young Jin, Director of the Incheon East Asia Global Education Institute (IEGI) on behalf of Mr. Seonghoon Do, Head of the Incheon Metropolitan Office of Education, South Korea
1:17–1:25 pm	OPENING <ul style="list-style-type: none">• H.E. Amb. Sangin Kim, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations• Amb. Aida Kasymalieva, Permanent Representative of Kyrgyzstan to the UN
1:25–1:30 pm	KEYNOTE <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Kaveh Madani, Director, UNU-INWEH (Water, Environment and Health)
1:30–2:10 pm	SESSION 1: What Global Citizens Can Do – Youth & Multistakeholders Demonstrating AI with Purpose Moderated by Dr. Eunhee Jung, President, IVECA International Virtual Schooling <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Innovative Youth Project presentations<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Transforming AI Data Centers into Circular Water–Energy–Food Systems<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Shenzhen Middle School, China▪ Hanil High School, South Korea◦ Revitalizing Cities through Youth Innovation and Inclusive Public Spaces<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Incheon City Schools Team A & B, South Korea◦ AI-Powered Flood Monitoring and Community Early Warning for Resilience<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Government Bilingual High School Bamendakwe, Cameroon◦ Urban Nexus AI: A Human–Centered AI Platform for Sustainable and Inclusive Cities<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Seton Hall University & Georgia Tech University, U.S.A.• Ms. Tisha Livingston, Co-Founder, 80 Acres Farms in Ohio, USA<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ From Vision to Reality: Scaling AI-Driven Indoor Farming for Sustainable Cities
2:10–2:25 pm	Q & A
2:25–2:30 pm	CLOSING <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Amb. Cory Seck, Permanent Representative of Senegal to the United Nations• Dr. Peter Preziosi, President of CoNGO

AGENDA

PART 2 BAN KI-MOON HALL, THE ROK MISSION TO THE UN	
TIME	EVENT
2:45–3:00 pm	LIGHT REFRESHMENT BREAK & NETWORKING
3:00–3:06 pm	OPENING <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Amb. Agnes Mary Chimbiri-Molande, Permanent Representative of Malawi to the United Nations (TBC)
3:06–3:40 pm	SESSION 2: What the World Must Do – High-level Experts' Perspectives and Actions for Human-Centered AI and WEF Nexus Governance Moderated by Dr. Aleksandra Gorisek, Chief, United Nations Academic Impact <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Hod Lipson, Chair, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Columbia University in NYC. Researcher in Robotics, AI, and Digital Manufacturing<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ “Steering AI for Humanity: Guiding AI toward Sustainable and Inclusive Futures”• Mr. Felipe Queipo, Communication Officer, Outreach Division at the United Nations Department of Global Communications<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ “Global Citizenship and Ethics in AI”• Mr. Juan Fernando Marti, Corporate and Public Affairs Manager, Asazgua, Guatemala<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ “Water, Energy and Food in the age of Artificial Intelligence: Innovation for Sustainable and Resilient Production”• Ms. Keunhye Park, Supervisor, IEGI, Korea<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ “Incheon’s Global Citizenship Education and AI Literacy through the Read, Walk and Write framework.”• Ms. Sudha Balakrishnan, Chief, United Nations Coordination and Accountability, UN Office for Youth Affairs<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ “Enabling Ethical AI and Coordinated SDG Action through Youth Partnership”
3:40–3:50 pm	Q & A
3:50–4:00 pm	CLOSING – From Dialogue to Collective Action

BIOGRAPHIES

SPEAKERS



H.E. Ambassador Sangjin Kim is the Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations Headquarters. After graduating from South Korea's prestigious Yonsei University with a B.A. in Public Administration, Sangjin Kim earned a Master's degree in International Relations from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University in Massachusetts. He has served in several senior leadership roles across diplomacy, security, and multilateral affairs, most recently as Director-General for International Policy at the Ministry of National Defense in Seoul (2020–2022), where he oversaw international security cooperation. His overseas postings include service as Minister at the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Prague and as Counsellor at the Embassy in Washington, D.C. He currently represents the Republic of Korea at the United Nations, contributing to deliberations on peace and security, human rights, and sustainable development.



(TBC) H.E. Ambassador Aida Kasymalieva is the Permanent Representative of Kyrgyzstan to the United Nations. Prior to her diplomatic assignment, she established a highly distinguished career in journalism and public service. As an accomplished investigative journalist for over a decade, she received critical acclaim, including recognition from the Developing Asia Journalism Awards, for her prominent advocacy for women's and children's rights. Transitioning into politics, she became Kyrgyzstan's youngest female member of parliament and was subsequently elected Vice Speaker of the Supreme Council. Throughout her legislative tenure, Amb. Kasymalieva championed key human rights initiatives, successfully securing increased legal protections and closely monitoring social and educational policies. At the United Nations, she represents Kyrgyzstan across vital multilateral deliberations, focusing on social affairs, sustainable development, and global governance.



H.E. Ambassador Coly Seck is the Permanent Representative of Senegal to the United Nations. He previously served as Senegal's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Office at Geneva from October 2016 to August 2024, where he engaged on key multilateral issues and chaired various diplomatic groups. Prior to his Geneva posting, Ambassador Seck held senior positions within Senegal's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, including Director of the Cabinet and Director of International Organizations. He also served at Senegal's Mission to the United Nations in New York, focusing on political affairs, disarmament, and international peace and security. Born in Thiès, Senegal, he holds advanced degrees in legal sciences and public law and has represented his country at numerous international forums.



(TBC) H.E. Dr. Agnes Mary Chimbiri-Molande is the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Malawi to the United Nations. With more than 15 years of experience in the United Nations system, she previously served as Portfolio Manager for Governance and Assistant Resident Representative for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Malawi, leading initiatives in governance, policy development, legal reform, and sustainable development. She has worked extensively with UN agencies, the Government of Malawi, the World Bank, and the University of Malawi to advance evidence-based policymaking and development cooperation. Amb. Chimbiri-Molande holds a PhD in Social Demography from the University of Waikato, a Master's degree in International Affairs from Ohio University, and a Bachelor's degree in Education from the University of Malawi. She is widely recognized for her leadership in governance, multilateral diplomacy, and advancing the SDGs.

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Mr. Chun Kyoo Park is the **Head of the United Nations Office for Sustainable Development (UNOSD)**. Prior to joining UNOSD, he served in the government for nearly 30 years, rising to the rank of Vice Minister of the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Korea. Throughout his distinguished career, Mr. Park has developed extensive expertise across diverse areas of sustainable development, including air and water quality management, waste management, and nature conservation. Notably, he led significant climate change initiatives, including the establishment of Korea's National Mitigation Targets. His international experience includes serving as First Secretary of the Republic of Korea Mission to the UN, where he engaged closely with the UN General Assembly Second Committee. Mr. Park holds a Bachelor's degree in Public Administration from Yonsei University and a Master's degree in Development Policy and Public Administration from the University of Wisconsin–Madison.



Mr. Seong-hoon Do is the **Superintendent of the Incheon Metropolitan Office of Education**, one of South Korea's largest metropolitan education authorities. Since taking office in 2018, he has advanced a student-centered vision that promotes educational equity, innovation, and the holistic development of every learner. A hallmark of his leadership is the "Read, Walk, Write" initiative, which encourages students to cultivate lifelong learning through reading, reflective thinking while engaging with their communities, and expressive writing to strengthen creativity, critical thinking, and character. He has also expanded digital and AI education, global citizenship education, ecological literacy, career education, and inclusive learning opportunities. Superintendent Do has strengthened international partnerships that foster intercultural collaboration and global competence. With decades of experience as an educator and educational leader, he remains committed to preparing young people to become ethical, resilient, and responsible global citizens equipped to thrive in an interconnected and rapidly changing world.



Dr. Kaveh Madani is **Director of UNU-INWEH (United Nations University Institute for Water, Environment and Health)**. His interdisciplinary research integrates mathematical, economic, and systems analysis to address complex challenges at the intersection of water, energy, food, climate, and environmental security. Dr. Madani is also the Founding Chair of the UNU Sustainability Nexus AID Programme and a Research Professor at the City University of New York's Remote Sensing Earth Systems Institute. Throughout his career, he has held leadership roles in academia, government, and international organizations, including serving as Deputy Head of Iran's Department of Environment and Vice President of the UN Environment Assembly Bureau. He has authored more than 350 publications, mentored over 70 graduate researchers, and is the recipient of the 2026 Stockholm Water Prize for his pioneering contributions to water science, policy, and environmental diplomacy.



Ms. Sudha Balakrishnan is the **Chief of UN System Coordination and Accountability at the United Nations Youth Office**. A medical doctor from India specializing in community medicine and epidemiology, she brings over 20 years of experience in international development, shaping public policies and financing on health, sustainable development, and emergency response at both national and global levels. She has served across the United Nations system, including at UNICEF and the UN Secretariat, as well as in academia and the private sector. In her current role, she coordinates the implementation of Youth2030, the UN Youth Strategy, bringing together the work of 60 UN entities and 132 UN Country Teams in support of governments and youth networks worldwide. Equity and youth empowerment have been central to her career.

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Dr. Hod Lipson is the Chair of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, Columbia University in NYC. Researcher in Robotics, AI, and Digital Manufacturing. Professor of Mechanical Engineering and Data Science at Columbia, Dr. Lipson directs the Creative Machines Lab, a leading research center developing innovative approaches to robotics, AI, and machine creativity. An award-winning researcher, educator, and science communicator, he is internationally recognized for his work and advances in open-source 3D printing, electronics printing, bioprinting, and food printing. A former professor at Cornell University, he has authored 300+ publications, co-founded four tech companies, and is a frequent keynote speaker. His widely viewed TED Talk on self-aware machines helped bring cutting-edge robotics research to a global audience.



Mr. Felipe Queipo serves as a Communications Officer in the UN Department of Global Communications (DGC). Mr. Queipo began his United Nations career in 2008 and currently manages outreach, engagement, and global communications with civil society, and is a member of the UN Speakers Bureau, frequently speaking on topics such as civil society, public diplomacy, youth in international relations, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Mr. Queipo assists civil society organizations in enhancing their media strategies to support UN initiatives. As the focal point for faith-based organizations within DGC, he leads the "Focus on Faith" briefings, exploring the intersection of faith traditions and the UN's mission, including topics like gender roles in religion, preventing violent extremism, and addressing global refugee crises. Mr. Queipo holds a degree in Political Science from Brigham Young University Idaho and previously attended SLU Madrid.



Ms. Tisha Livingston is a co-founder of 80 Acres Farms and CEO of its technology subsidiary, Infinite Acres, where she leads the development and management of advanced controlled environment agriculture systems. Based in Hamilton, Ohio, 80 Acres Farms—founded in 2015 with Mike Zelkind—has grown into a vertically integrated indoor farming leader producing fresh, pesticide-free vegetables and herbs using significantly less water and renewable energy. Under Livingston's leadership, Infinite Acres focuses on optimizing hardware, software, and environmental controls to advance sustainable food production technologies. Her work emphasizes efficiency, reduced resource use, and resiliency in food systems, aligning sustainable innovation with community impact and scalable solutions for urban food security and ecological challenges.



Mr. Juan Fernando is a Public and Corporate Affairs Manager at the Guatemalan Sugar Producers' Association –Asazgua–, a private organization responsible for ensuring the sustainability, compliance and efficiency of the Sugar Cane Industry in Guatemala. He specializes in Public Policy and Development Economics, promoting strategic stakeholder engagement and initiatives that improve competitiveness in the agro-industrial sector. Through his work and many others', Asazgua and its members are able to comply with both national and international commitments with SDGs, making of Guatemala an international reference for the Sugar Cane Industry worldwide.

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Dr. Peter Preziosi, PhD, RN, CAE, FAAN is President and Chief Executive Officer of TruMerit and President of the Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the UN (CoNGO), where he leads global initiatives to strengthen health systems by advancing healthcare workforce development, career mobility, and professional standards. He has guided the organization's transformation, expanding its mission to include research, advocacy, and global frameworks that support healthcare professionals worldwide. Previously, Dr. Preziosi led quality, standards development, and credentialing for the World Health Organization's WHO Academy. A registered nurse by training, he has nearly three decades of leadership experience across healthcare, government, nonprofit, and corporate sectors.

MODERATORS



Dr. Eunhee Jung is the Founder and President of IVECA Center for International Virtual Schooling. and CEO of IVECA-KOREA. As an NGO Representative to the United Nations Economic and Social Council and Department of Global Communications, she served Co-Chair of the NGO Steering Committee for an International Day of Education for Global Citizenship. Dr. Jung is dedicated to promoting interculturally competent global citizens for peace and sustainable development by using instructional technologies to transform classroom activities towards globally connected teaching and learning. She has worked with K-12 schools, universities, technology firms, NGOs, and ministries/offices of education in over 30 countries. She earned M.Ed and Ph.D. in Instructional Technology from the University of Virginia and B.Ed from Seoul National University of Education.



Ms. Aleksandra "Saša" Gorišek leads the Civil Society and Academic Impact portfolio at the United Nations Department of Global Communications and serves as department's focal point on multilingualism, advancing inclusive and accessible communications. With over 25 years of international experience across the United Nations, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, journalism and academia, she was previously Director of Communications at the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in Geneva, managing crisis communications, advocacy and marketing, digital engagement and global storytelling initiatives, including the People in the Red Vest podcast. She has held a range of communications roles across the UN, including communications adviser to senior leadership at the International Atomic Energy Agency and the UN Security Council's Joint Investigative Mechanism for Syria. As a UN TV producer, she reported from around the world on peace and security, human rights, climate and sustainable development.