

Side Event: Bridging the Gaps and Co-Creating the Digital Future**Date & Time:** 24 September 2025, 8:15 AM – 09:30 AM. **Location:** United Nations HQ, Conference Room 12, New York.**Co-Organizers:** (lead) Italy, (technical partner) UNDP, (co-sponsors) Kenya, Egypt, Mozambique.

Africa stands at a transformative crossroads, with over 60% of its population under 25, positioning the continent as a global leader in the digital and AI era. Beyond enhancing service delivery, digital and AI offers a powerful catalyst for business innovation, market growth, and inclusive economic prosperity. This high-level UNGA80 side event, co-convened by the Government of Italy, alongside the governments of Egypt and Kenya, Mozambique and UNDP, will highlight bold strategic partnerships reimagined with Africa and the private sector for sustainable development in countries. Drawing inspiration from Enrico Mattei's legacy—whose vision shaped the Italy-Africa Mattei Plan through mutually beneficial global cooperation—Italy and its partners are pioneering an ambitious, future-oriented model of collaboration with Africa and the private sector.

Time	Speakers
Opening remarks	
8:15 AM – 8:20 AM	Director General for Development Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy – Mr Stefano Gatti Assistant Secretary-General and Director of UNDP's Bureau for Policy and Programme Support, Mr Marcos Neto
The Digital Flagship with Africa: Building Partnerships and financing for digital transformation - Moderator Agostino Inguscio	
8:20 – 8:43 AM	Mateus Magala – Advisor for Economic and Development Affairs to the President of Mozambique Stéphane Coulibaly – DG Innovation, Startups and Private sector – Ministry for Digital, Ivory Coast Massimo Dal Checco - CEO SIDI Group and President of Anitec-Assinform Alberta Nana Akyaa Akosa - Founder/Executive Director – Agrihouse Foundation (Ghana)(online)
Keynote speech and video	
8:43 – 8:48 AM	Lisa Monaco , President, Global Affairs, Microsoft
8:48 – 8:50 AM	Quick showcase of the AI Hub's role in fostering private sector growth and industrial growth in Africa
AI Hub for Sustainable Development: Reimagining Private Sector Partnerships and Accelerating AI Foundations for Shared Prosperity – Moderator Keyzom Massally	
8:50 – 9:02 AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Eva Spina, Head of Department, Digital, Connectivity and New Technologies (MIMIT)- Ahmed Tantawy, Senior advisor to the Egyptian Minister of Communications and IT and the Founding Director of the Applied Innovation Center (Egypt)- Philip Thigo, Special Envoy on Technology, Office of the President of the Republic (Kenya)
9:02 – 9:20 AM	Testimonials from Private Sector <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Alex Tsado, CEO Alliance4AI and co-stewards of the AI Hub's Africa Green Compute Coalition (African Start-up, Pan African);• Kate Kallot, CEO Amini (African startup, Kenya);• Houda Ghozzi, CEO, Open Startup International (African Organization, Tunisia);• Jonathan Garcia, Chief of Staff, Domyen (Italian Private Sector).• Franco Spicciariello, Director Public Policy, Mediterranean Europe, AWS
Closing Remarks	
9:20 – 9:30	Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Italy, Mr. Edmondo Cirielli