

2nd CALL FOR PAPERS

UVCI, a decade of digital innovation for inclusive and sustainable education

International Scientific Conference UNESCO Chair IAHSO



Shared knowledge and artificial intelligence
for anticipating societal transformations and co-constructing
a sustainable future



4 to 5 December 2025

Hybrid Mode : in person at UVCI (Ivory Coast) and online Send abstracts
of papers to : colloquevirtuel@uvci.edu.ci

1. CONTEXT AND JUSTIFICATION



The UNESCO Chair in Artificial Intelligence, Humanities, and Open Science (IAHSO), the result of collaboration between UNESCO and the Virtual University of Côte d'Ivoire (UVCI), officially launched its activities on July 24, 2025. Its ambitious vision **is to provide leadership in building an ethical, inclusive, and collaborative knowledge ecosystem that integrates AI and Open Science in the service of the humanities and sustainable societies.**



At the dawn of an era marked by profound digital, environmental, economic, social, and cultural transitions (Schwab, 2022), AI is transforming not only technical practices but also knowledge flows, decision-making, and cultures. Coupled with the requirements of open, human, and inclusive science, it offers unprecedented opportunities to: i) promote the equitable production and sharing of knowledge; ii) co-construct solutions adapted to local realities; iii) integrate the diversity of cultures and peoples into technological innovations (Benkler, 2023).



In this context, and on the occasion of its 10th anniversary celebrated under the theme: **"UVCI, a decade of digital innovation for inclusive and sustainable education,"** the UNESCO IAHSO Chair is organizing, in collaboration with the Ivorian National Commission for UNESCO, the UNESCO Office in Côte d'Ivoire, the Permanent Delegation of Côte d'Ivoire to UNESCO in Paris, all UNESCO Chairs in Côte d'Ivoire, and national and international partners, the first edition of the IAHSO international scientific symposium. The theme chosen is: **"Shared Knowledge and Artificial Intelligence for Anticipating Societal Transformations and Co-constructing a Sustainable Future."**

Under the patronage of **H.E. BAKAYOKO-LY Ramata**, Ambassador of the Permanent Delegation of Côte d'Ivoire to UNESCO in Paris (France), this event will be held from **December 4th to 5th, 2025**, in a hybrid format, online and in person at Abidjan-II Plateaux, at the UVCI headquarters.

Combining perspectives and knowledge is essential today to build a sustainable future. AI, through its ability to process and analyze masses of complex data, opens up new perspectives for the sustainable development of societies. In interaction with Digital Humanities, AI makes it possible to decipher and anticipate social, cultural, economic, and environmental changes, while Open Science promotes equitable and collaborative access to knowledge and, above all, the construction of inclusive research networks, essential for the emergence of collective innovations. Together, these dynamics fuel responsible innovation and support the objectives of Sustainable Development, placing ethics, inclusion, and solidarity at the heart of the transformations of our societies.

However, the diversity of AI applications in society (health, education, industry, culture, environmental management, etc.) raises this question: **how can we ensure that these technologies do not contribute to increasing inequalities and, on the contrary, promote sustainable and inclusive development?** To answer this question, the international and national normative framework offers solid guidelines:

- European AI Strategy (2018), which aims to ensure the ethical and transparent development and use of technologies;
- The African Union AI Strategy (2019), which aims to develop and use AI in Africa to stimulate economic growth and address social challenges;
- UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI (2021), the first global normative instrument setting out fundamental values and principles to ensure that AI serves the good of humanity, societies, and the environment;



- G7 Declaration on AI (2023), which emphasizes ethics, transparency, data protection, security, and fairness;
- National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence and Data Governance (2025–2030), adopted in 2024, which aims to transform Côte d'Ivoire into a sub-regional AI hub, nicknamed the "African Elephant" of AI.

AI is thus seen as a strategic lever for accelerating the achievement of national development goals (National Development Plan, National Research Plan) and international goals (Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), African Union Agenda 2063). It can contribute to: i) reducing social, cultural, and economic inequalities; ii) universal access to education, health, and energy; iii) optimizing agricultural systems and climate resilience; iv) promoting cultural heritage in the digital age.

Nevertheless, the deployment of AI in many African countries still carries major risks, including the widening of digital and social divides (Ndung'u, 2023). Infrastructure deficits, heavy dependence on imported technologies, and the absence of ethical frameworks adapted to local realities could hinder the expected positive impact. In this context, several questions remain central:

1. *What ethical and institutional safeguards need to be put in place to ensure that AI and shared knowledge become genuine drivers of societal sustainability?*
2. *How can the equitable sharing of knowledge, supported by AI, help reduce inequalities and promote inclusive and sustainable development?*
3. *How can AI and open science help anticipate social, economic, and cultural changes in order to steer societies towards more resilient and sustainable models?*

In organizing this conference, the UNESCO IAHSO Chair has set itself the task of identifying concrete ways to put AI and open and shared science at the service of a sustainable future in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

This conference is an important forum for exchange, bringing together academics (researchers, doctoral students, learners), decision-makers (national and international organizations), entrepreneurs, and non-governmental organizations to discuss and develop solutions adapted to the local development of cities and villages, while aligning with national and international development goals.

2. OBJECTIVES



2.1. General objective

The general objective of this conference is to present concrete contributions showing how AI and knowledge sharing can guide societies towards sustainable, ethical, and inclusive development.

2.2. Specific objectives

More specifically, the objectives of this conference are to:

1. assess the role of AI and open science in the production and equitable sharing of knowledge and their contributions to sustainable development;
2. analyze the ethical, institutional, and cultural conditions necessary for the inclusive use of AI;
3. highlight synergies between AI, the humanities, and open science in the context of the SDGs;
4. identify strategies to reduce social and digital divides through technological innovation;
5. assess the impacts of emerging technologies on sustainable development, governance, and territories.
6. promote interdisciplinary and intersectoral exchanges for local appropriation of technologies;
7. Strengthen partnerships and collaborations between national and international actors around AI and digital humanities.

3. THEMATIC AREAS AND SUB-THEMES



The conference will feature plenary sessions, scientific presentations (oral or poster), expert-led panels, and exhibitions of work and innovations in AI and open science.

Proposals for presentations will be submitted and rigorously evaluated by the conference's Scientific Committee.

The following sub-themes are proposed:



Sub-theme 1: AI, Humanities, and Heritage: Ethics and Inclusion

1. Cultural identities, local knowledge, and representations of diversity in the age of intelligent technologies.
2. Ethics, governance, and social responsibility in the deployment of AI.
3. Protection of human rights and preservation of cultural heritage through digital technologies.
4. Synergies between AI, digital humanities, and open science



Sub-theme 2: Shared knowledge and open science

1. Equitable access to knowledge and learning;
2. Open science and environmental challenges;
3. International cooperation and data sharing for sustainable development;
4. Open digital infrastructures and inclusive innovation;

Sub-theme 3: Forecasting and anticipating societal transformations

1. AI and economic, social, and cultural foresight
2. Scenarios and tools for anticipating technological transformations
3. Governance and institutional framework for sustainable and ethical development

Sub-theme 4: AI and inclusive socio-economic transformations

1. AI as a driver of the circular economy and sustainable innovation
2. AI, social entrepreneurship, and digital inclusion: towards reducing inequalities
3. Optimization of agricultural value chains;
4. Digitization of services and administrations.

Sub-theme 5: AI, education, and talent training

1. Personalization of learning through AI;
2. Development of digital skills and continuing education;
3. Inclusive education and learner support;
4. Youth and scientific and technological innovation.

Sub-theme 6: AI, environment, and sustainable development

1. Sustainable management of natural resources and energy transition;
2. Climate modeling and adaptation to environmental change;
3. Smart systems for biodiversity monitoring and protection;
4. AI for urban planning and digital transition;

4. PROCEDURES FOR SUBMITTING PAPERS

Proposals for papers must be submitted in **French** or **English** in editable text format (.doc, .odt) and sent by email to the following address: colloquevirtuel@uvci.edu.ci.

They may relate to one or more sub-themes of the conference and be presented by a single author or a group of authors. Abstracts must be no **longer than 4,000 characters (including spaces, excluding bibliography)**, in Times New Roman font; 12 pt, 1.5 line spacing.

The following types of content are accepted:

- Empirical research (objectives, context, theoretical framework, methodology, results, conclusion);
- Research summary/theoretical text/critical essay;
- Presentation of professional experiences or practices.

Instructions : Each submission must include:

- Title of the paper;
- Surname(s) and first name(s) of the author(s) ;
- Full institutional affiliation (university, laboratory, organisation, etc.) ;
- Digital identifiers (ORCID account and Google Scholar link);
- Selected sub-theme;

Summary in accordance with the chosen type of communication, maximum 4,000 characters (including spaces, excluding bibliography), including a clearly formulated problem statement, a theoretical question related to the sub-theme, a substantiated critical reflection and references (not included in the character limit).

Proposals received will be evaluated in a double-blind review process by the conference's scientific committee. Criteria will include relevance to the theme, scientific quality, and clarity of presentation. Selected papers will be presented orally, and abstracts will be published in the conference abstract booklet.

5. IMPORTANT DATES

The deadlines below must be strictly adhered to.

Schedule of activities	Deadlines
1st Call for papers	28 August 2025
2nd Call for papers	15 September 2025
3rd Call for Papers	6 October 2025
Deadline for abstract submission	20 October 2025
Notification of acceptance	31 October 2025
Submission of papers (PowerPoint presentation)	20 November 2025
Hybrid conference	4–5 December 2025

6. REGISTRATION PROCEDURES

All registrations entitle participants to access the various conference sessions, documentation, the conference abstract booklet, a certificate of attendance, coffee breaks and lunch.

Transport and accommodation are the responsibility of national and international participants. However, the organising committee will facilitate the accommodation arrangements with its hotel partners. To pay the fee corresponding to your situation, you can make a bank transfer or pay online until 4 December 2025.

Target audience	Cost (CFA francs)
Face-to-face communicators	
• Teachers or professionals	40.000
• Doctoral students or other students, job seekers, retirees	20.000
Remote communicators	
• Teachers or professionals	20.000
• Doctoral students or other students, job seekers, retirees	10.000
On site participants	
• Teachers or professionals	20.000
• Doctoral students or other students, job seekers, retirees	10.000
Remote participants:	
• Teachers or professionals	10.000
• Doctoral students or other students, job seekers, retirees	5.000

Payments for conference participation fees will be made on the conference platform.

7. TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

7. 1. Scientific Committee

Chair

Prof.. Tiémoman KONE, Chaire UNESCO Intelligence Artificielle, Humanités et Science Ouverte, Université Virtuelle de Côte d'Ivoire, Côte d'Ivoire

Vice-Chairs of the Committee

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2. Prof. Ramata BAKAYOKO-LY, Délégation permanente de la Côte d'Ivoire auprès de l'UNESCO-Paris, France
3. Prof. Lazare POAME, Chaire UNESCO Bioéthique, Université Alassane OUATTARA, Côte d'Ivoire
4. Prof. Kouamé Sylvestre KOUASSI, Chaire UNESCO Anticipation, Prospective et Territoires Durables, Université Alassane OUATTARA, Côte d'Ivoire
5. Prof Sohail INAYATULLAH, UNESCO Chair in Futures Studies, Tamkang University. New Taipei City, Taiwan

Members :

1. Prof. Boko AKA, Université Nangui ABROGOUA, Côte d'Ivoire
2. Prof Rachid El KACHRADi, Research Lab in Quality, Management & Technology Transfer, Maroc
3. Prof. Alain KIYINDOU, Directeur régional AUF Afrique Centrale et Grands Lacs

4. Prof. Jean Paul MAMBOUNDOU, Université Omar Bongo, Gabon
5. Prof. Alexandre ASSEMIEN, Institut National Polytechnique HOUPHOUËT-BOIGNY, Côte d'Ivoire
6. Dr (MC) N'Golo Aboudou SORO, Commission nationale ivoirienne pour l'UNESCO, Côte d'Ivoire
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10. Dr (MC) Abdoulaye SERE, Université de Bobo-Dioulasso, Burkina Faso
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20. Dr Serge Olivier KOTCHI, Université Virtuelle de Côte d'Ivoire, Côte d'Ivoire

7.2. Organising committee

Committee Chair

Prof. Fernand KOUAME, UNESCO Chair in Artificial Intelligence, Humanities, and Open Science, Virtual University of Côte d'Ivoire, Côte d'Ivoire

Vice-Chairs of the Committee

1. M. Mame Omar DIOP, Bureau de l'UNESCO en Côte d'Ivoire
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3. Dr (MC) Béhou Gérard N'GUESSAN, Université Virtuelle de Côte d'Ivoire, Côte d'Ivoire
4. M. Ange Boni YEYE, Bureau de l'UNESCO, Côte d'Ivoire
5. M. Stéphane Kounandi COULIBALY, Directeur de l'Innovation, des Startups et du Secteur Privé au Ministère de la Transition Numérique et de la Digitalisation, Côte d'Ivoire

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7. Dr Yacouba KOURAOGO, Université Virtuelle de Côte d'Ivoire, Côte d'Ivoire
8. Dr Castro G. HOUNMENOU, Université de Labé, Guinée

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 10. Dr Laby Clément LOBO, Université Virtuelle de Côte d'Ivoire, Côte d'Ivoire
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 12. Dr Kacoutchy Jean AYIKPA, Université Virtuelle de Côte d'Ivoire, Côte d'Ivoire
 13. Dr Melama COULIBALY, Université Virtuelle de Côte d'Ivoire, Côte d'Ivoire
 14. Dr Mamadou BAKOUAN, Université Virtuelle de Côte d'Ivoire, Côte d'Ivoire
 15. Dr Nobgou Andetchi Aubin AMANZOU, Université Virtuelle de Côte d'Ivoire, Côte d'Ivoire
 16. Dr Amenan Léa BASSA, Université Virtuelle de Côte d'Ivoire, Côte d'Ivoire
 17. Dr Arthur KOUASSI, Université Virtuelle de Côte d'Ivoire, Côte d'Ivoire
 18. Dr Mariam BERTE, Université Virtuelle de Côte d'Ivoire, Côte d'Ivoire
 19. Dr Noël Yadoho COULIBALY, Université Virtuelle de Côte d'Ivoire, Côte d'Ivoire
 20. Dr Euloge-François KOUAME, Université Virtuelle de Côte d'Ivoire, Côte d'Ivoire
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8. USEFUL CONTACTS

UVCI Communications Department: servicecommunication@uvci.edu.ci

Conference Secretariat: colloquevirtuel@uvci.edu.ci ; secretariat@uvci.edu.ci ; adjoint.secretariat@uvci.edu.ci

9. REFERENCES

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