Keynote address by High Commissioner at the AI for impact Global South Forum Kigali Marriott Hotel, 21 January 2026

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Mr. Sunil Wadhwani, Founder & Chairman, Wadhwani AI Global

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Excellencies, distinguished guests, partners, colleagues and friends!

Good evening!

Namaskar!

Miriwe!

It is my distinct pleasure to welcome you all to the AI for Impact Global South Forum.

Today's event is a prelude to the India AI Impact Summit 2026 being organized by the Government of India from 19-20 February 2026 in New Delhi. The India AI Impact Summit 2026 follows the 2023 AI Safety Summit in the UK, 2024 AI Seoul Summit and 2025 AI Action Summit held in France.

This Summit will be anchored on three foundational principles viz. **People, Planet and Progress**. These foundational principles define how AI can be harnessed through multilateral cooperation for collective benefit. Building upon the three foundational principles, the deliberations at the India AI Impact Summit will be organized around seven interconnected Chakras, i.e. areas of multilateral cooperation designed to channel collective energy

towards holistic societal transformation. These seven Chakras are: **Human Capital, Inclusion, Safe and Trusted AI, Resilience, Science, Democratizing AI Resources, and Social good.** These seven Chakras represent focused domains of international collaboration that translates the broader principles of People, Plant and Progress into concrete areas of action.

In this regard, I am thankful to the Government of Rwanda for agreeing to Co-Chair the Human Capita working group segment of the India-AI Impact Summit, a testament to our warm partnership and openness to collaboration.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

You would agree that today, AI stands at the threshold of fundamentally reshaping human civilization, pushing the boundaries of what we can achieve. In the words of Hon'ble PM of India, Shri Narendra Modi and I quote "AI can help transform millions of lives by improving health, education, agriculture and so much more. It can help create a world in which the journey to Sustainable Development Goals becomes easier and faster. To do this, we must pool together resources and talent. We must develop open-source systems that enhance trust and transparency. We must build quality data sets, free from biases. We must democratize technology and create people-centric applications. We must address concerns related to cyber security, disinformation, and deep fakes. And, we must also ensure that technology is rooted in local ecosystem from it to be effective and useful." UNQUOTE.

In the last few years, it has been the endeavor of Government of India to democratize AI, bridge the AI divide and align the global discourse on AI with the needs of the Global South.

In this context, what is of concern to the Global South is that while AI is advancing rapidly across the world, most global AI conversations are still shaped by context very different from theirs. It is imperative that we utilize the transformative potential of AI for the benefit of one and all. We must redouble our efforts to ensure that there is no AI divide in terms of absence of computing power, models, resources and talent. AI should also be contextualized to bring about local solutions. In an African context, AI solutions can make a difference in agriculture, social sectors such as health and education and in promoting good governance. One also needs to be mindful of the fact that the use of AI should be responsible and guided by an ethical framework.

And that is precisely why today's dialogue matters.

For India and Rwanda, AI is not about experimentation for its own sake. It is about solving real problems, delivering health services in remote areas, improving learning outcomes, strengthening public administration, and ensuring that technology expands opportunity rather than deepens inequality.

I'll be failing in my duty if I do not acknowledge our partner for today, Wadhwani AI Global, and particularly Mr. Sunil Wadhwani, who has specially flown in from New York for this event. We commend Wadhwani AI Global for their commitment to building AI solutions that are grounded in public purpose. Their work reflects a deep understanding that technology, on its own, does not create impact that institutions do.

I look forward to the discussions ahead and to the continued strengthening of India–Rwanda cooperation as we work together to build AI ecosystems that serve people first.

Thank you.

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