



**Statement by South Centre at the Ministerial Meeting on Artificial Intelligence,
Data Governance and Innovation for Sustainable Development
(G20 Task Force)**

30 September 2025, Cape Town

The South Centre appreciates the South Africa G20 Presidency's initiative of establishing the Task Force on Artificial Intelligence, Data Governance and Innovation for Sustainable Development and the leadership and guidance provided for its work, which has addressed key priorities championed by developing country G20 members, and echoed the BRICS Leaders' Statement on Global Governance of Artificial Intelligence.

We support the Chair's Statement recognizing the need for equal participation of all nations in shaping a fair, safe, secure, responsible, inclusive, ethical, trustworthy and sustainable global AI landscape in service of humanity. The South Centre believes the United Nations should continue to play a central role in shaping AI governance.

The collective commitment of G20 is important to advance international cooperation for risk-based and human-centric, development-oriented, innovation-friendly AI policy and governance approaches that support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. This would contribute to narrowing the multifaceted AI divide and to mitigating multitude of risks of AI.

We particularly commend the recognition of the Task Force under the G20 South African Presidency, like under the previous two presidencies, that **data governance is an imperative for shaping the vision for the AI landscape**.

The South Centre also supports the outcome document's recognition that AI systems must address issues related to biases and digital and data inequalities that perpetuate invisibility and discrimination. The recognition that countries are **entitled to develop and adopt regulatory frameworks for AI systems** is essential for ensuring fairness, transparency, and accountability throughout the entire AI life cycle.

We welcome the "AI for Africa Initiative" launched by the African Union and G20 Presidency as well as the Technology Policy Assistance Facility and other knowledge outputs made by UNESCO in this process.