AI and environment: opportunities and challenges for sustainable development

Side event of the Fourth Plenary of the Committee on Artificial Intelligence

List of speakers

Moderator:

Mr Patrick PENNINCKX has spent the last 30 years at the Council of Europe, focusing on transformation processes in the organisation, developing partnerships with other international organisations and national partners. Currently heading the Information Society Department under the Directorate General Human Rights and the Rule of Law, Mr Penninckx coordinates standard-setting and co-operation activities in the fields of media, internet governance, data protection and cybercrime. He is also responsible for projects related to public-private partnerships and cooperation with business partners.

Mr Penninckx led the Information Society Department in a large number of studies on most contemporary topics, such as filtering and blocking of illicit content on the internet, self-censorship of media and journalists and chilling factors to freedom of expression, disinformation, the role of the media in times of crisis, quality journalism and investigative journalism, as well as media literacy. His professional focus encompasses areas such as freedom of expression, the safety of journalists, sound internet governance, international standards in data protection, action against cybercrime and the impact of AI on human rights.

Keynote speaker:

Mr David ERAY is a member of the Independent Christian Social Party, elected to the Jura Government in 2015 and heading the Ministry of the Environment, which also includes transport, energy, infrastructure and IT. He is a member of the political management of the Swiss Digital Administration (Political Management Committee/Digital Public Services Switzerland), an observer at the Regional Forum of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA – EFTA), Chairman of the Swiss delegation to the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe and Spokesman of the Congress on Digitalisation and Artificial Intelligence.

Engineer in microtechnology, and holder of an executive-MBA, before entering politics, David Eray had worked for 21 years in the industrial sector in Switzerland as well as in the United States and India.

Panelists (in alphabetical order):

Mr Peter CLUTTON-BROCK's work focusses on the intersection of emerging technology and climate change. Pete is Executive Director and co-founder of the Centre for AI & Climate, where he supports companies, governments and international organisations to consider how best to deploy data science and AI to support action on the climate change.

He has worked with the Global Partnership on AI to inform their work on climate change and has authored various flagship papers at the intersection of AI & climate, such as [Climate Change AI: Recommendations for Government Action](). He has in-depth expertise in climate policy and government relations – having worked for the UK Government on national and international climate policy.

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Ms Golestan (Sally) RADWAN is an international AI expert and PhD candidate at the Royal Holloway University of London. For the past three years, she served as AI Advisor to the Minister of ICT of Egypt, where she led the team in charge of developing and implementing Egypt's national AI strategy. Radwan served as Vice-chair of the UNESCO ad-hoc expert group tasked with drafting the first international recommendation on the ethics of AI. She is also part of the OECD expert network ONE.AI, GPAI's Responsible AI group, and chairs two AI working groups within the African Union and the League of Arab States.

Prior to her appointment at MCIT, Ms Radwan held several executive positions in the technology industry over 17 years, working in Germany, Austria, the UK and the US. she earned a BSc in Computer Engineering from Cairo University and an MBA from London Business School, as well as an MSc in Clinical Engineering and Healthcare Technology Management from City University of London. She is currently finalizing her PhD thesis, focusing on AI explainability and its ethical considerations in clinical genomics.

Mr Andrew W. WYCKOFF is the Director of the OECD's Directorate for Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) where he oversees the organisation's work on innovation, business dynamics, science and technology, information and communication technology policy as well as the statistical work associated with each of these areas. His experience prior to the OECD includes positions at the US Congressional Office of Technology Assessment (OTA), the US National Science Foundation (NSF) and The Brookings Institution.

He has served as an expert on various advisory groups and panels which include joining the Global Board of Trustees of Digital Future Society (DFS), being a Commissioner on the Lancet/FT Governing Health Futures 2030 Commission, the International Advisory Board of the Research Council of Norway and Head of OECD's Delegation at the G20 and G7 meetings on ICT and Digital Economy.

Professor Yoshiki YAMAGATA holds a Chair in the Graduate School of System Design and Management at the Keio University, Japan. He currently studies carbon-neutral and well-being integrating urban systems design (Cabinet Office research project). Professor Yamagata has published over 300 referred journal papers and contributed to the IPCC in the last 20 years as a Lead Author, most recently to the AR6 (WG3/Urban systems chapter). His current research interests include: Future urban simulation using digital twin technologies, Urban resilience analysis using Bigdata, and MAAS system development using Flying cars etc.