

Human Development in the Age of Artificial Intelligence (AI): Indices and Global Insights from New Data

A Side Event at the 57th UN Statistical Commission

Date and Time	Thursday, 19 th February 2026, 9:00 am – 10:30 am (New York time, GMT-5:00)
Organizer	UNDP/Human Development Report Office
Location	Virtual Only (Zoom)
Registration Link	https://undp.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_IPHtQ9bBQj6l6KKiC28QtA#/registration

Artificial intelligence is transforming societies at an extraordinary pace, raising fundamental questions about development, opportunity, and human agency. UNDP's 2025 Human Development Report, titled "[A matter of choice: People and possibilities in the age of AI](#)," argues that navigating this transformation successfully depends less on AI's technical capabilities and more on the choices societies make about how to deploy and govern these technologies. The report emphasizes that AI's impact on development will be determined by whether it expands or constrains people's freedoms to pursue lives they value.

Addressing these questions requires robust statistical frameworks that go beyond narrow economic indicators. Since 1990, UNDP's Human Development Index has provided a people-centred approach to measuring progress in human well-being. As AI transforms labour markets, public services, and opportunities, such measurement tools are increasingly essential for assessing whether technological change translates into genuine improvements in human development or deepens existing inequalities.

This side event at the 57th UN Statistical Commission will examine human development in the age of AI through three complementary lenses. First, it will discuss the methodological foundations of human development measurement, including data sources and analytical approaches underlying composite indices such as the HDI. Second, it will present key findings from the 2025 Human Development Report on the relationship between AI, human capabilities, and choice. The session will also present results from UNDP's [2025 Global Survey on AI and Human Development](#), a global public opinion survey generating insights from 21 countries and capturing perspectives from populations representing 63% of the world. Finally, the session will highlight an innovative data platform hosted by UNDP's Human Development Report Office and illustrate how its data can be integrated with traditional human development indices to inform policy-relevant analysis.

Following the presentations, there will be an open-floor discussion. UNDP's Human Development Report Office has convened similar sessions at the UN Statistical Commission annually since 2011 to engage with the international statistical community. All delegates are welcome to attend this virtual event via Zoom.

In case of questions, please contact Ms. Nabamallika Dehingia (nabamallika.dehingia@undp.org) or Ms. Matimba Jolayemi (matimba.jolayemi@undp.org).

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Indicative Agenda

- 9:00-9:05 Welcome and Introduction- Yanchun Zhang (Chief Statistician)
- 9:05-9:25 UNDP's Human Development Indices and Data: An Overview – Yu-Chieh Hsu (Policy Specialist: Research & Statistics)
- Presentation of UNDP's human development indices and dashboards
 - Background material: [human development indices and data](#)
- 9:25-9:50 UNDP Human Development Report Research – Heriberto Tapia (Research and Strategic Partnership Advisor)
- Insights from [HDR 2025 on AI and Human Development](#)
 - Discussion of results from the [innovative AI survey](#)
- 9:50-10:05 Human Climate Horizons initiative, and HDRO's digital data resources – Qiamuddin Sabawoon (Data Management Specialist) & Nicholas Depsky (Research Analyst)
- Data and insights from the Human Climate Horizon platform
 - Background Material: [Human Climate Horizons data and insights platform](#)
- 10:05-10:20 Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) - Nabamallika Dehingia (Statistics Specialist)
- Insights from the 2025 global MPI report, including demonstration of application of innovative data from the Human Climate Horizon platform
 - Background Material: [Global Multidimensional Poverty Index \(MPI\) 2025](#)
- 10:20-10:30 Discussion and Q&A
Closing – Yanchun Zhang (Chief Statistician)