

Analysis of Artificial Intelligence Policy Development in African Countries: A Policy Process Perspective

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Thursday, 7 May 2026 @ 16h00-17h00 SAST

Venues: NITheCS Seminar Room, Stellenbosch University; and Online

ABSTRACT

In recent years, countries and regional organisations have prioritised AI governance to harness its benefits while managing associated risks. This research examines AI policy development in selected African nations – South Africa, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Egypt, and Mauritius – using a policy analysis framework. It focuses on agenda-setting and policy formulation, capturing stakeholder profiles, activities in the AI policy process, governance structures, and the unique challenges faced. The findings indicate that these countries are actively developing and implementing AI policies to address national issues. Common challenges include a shortage of skilled experts, limited infrastructure, ethical concerns, and regulatory gaps.

BIOGRAPHY

Dr Solomon Gizaw completed his PhD at the Localisation Research Centre (LRC)/Lero, the Irish Software Engineering Research Centre, at the University of Limerick. He also holds an MSc in Computer Science and a BSc in Applied Mathematics from Addis Ababa University (AAU) in Ethiopia.

He is one of the contributors to the development and innovation of the Service-Oriented Localisation Architecture Solution (SOLAS), a component-based, open-source localisation platform. He was a co-founder of the Ethiopian Free and Open Source Software Network (EFOSSNet), where he served as Regional Manager from 2005 to 2009. He was also a Council Member of the Free and Open Source Software Foundation for Africa (FOSSFA) from 2006 to 2010, and a Secretariat Member of the African Network for Localization (ANLoc) from 2008 to 2015.

Currently, he is a research member of the African-European Cluster of Research Excellence (CoRE AI), and a Research Fellow at AAU.



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