The 13th Session of the United Nations Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development

AI, Cultural Rights and the Right to Development

22 April 2026 | United Nations Headquarters, New York

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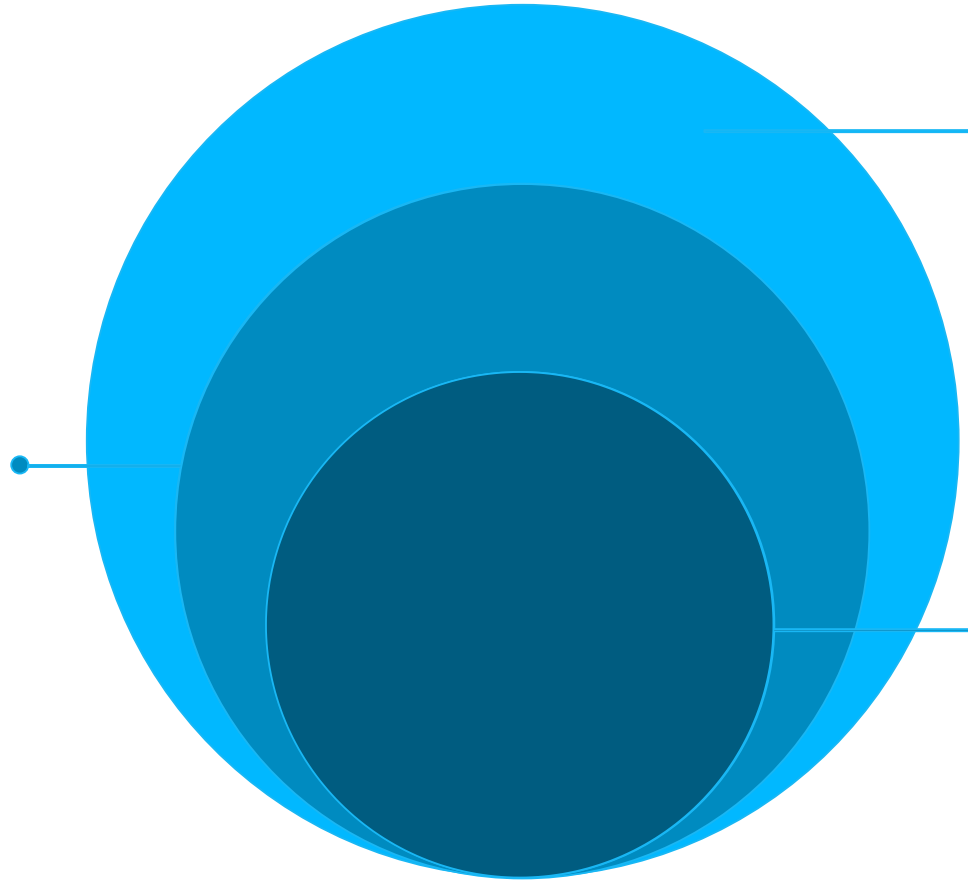
1. From Tool to Environment

AI is an environment that we inhabit and shape, and in turn, it shapes us and our decisions.

- Recommendations guide choices.
- The options we see are filtered through models trained on certain forms of human expression.
- Humans come to expect repeated guidance.
- Over time, people begin to choose from what is generated.

Humans set the parameters of the **co-intelligence** movement. We are not merely passive recipients. We are active **co-architects**. We have a **moral duty** to claim and exercise that role in **co-creating** AI environments that **reduce harm** (nonmaleficence) and **do good** (beneficence).

2. From Dignity in Law to "Dignity by Design"



Dignity by Design

Human dignity embedded at every stage of the AI lifecycle

52

* multinational instruments explicitly emphasize dignity

82%

UN member-state constitutions explicitly include dignity

* African Union, Assoc. of Southeast Asian Nations, Council of Europe, European Union, League of Arab States, United Nations

From Moral Distance

Physical Distance

Cultural Distance

Psychological Distance

Procedural Distance

to

Moral Imagination

From Marginality to Mattering

Vulnerability Lens

Indigenous Peoples

Collective rights:

self-determination, FPIC

Identity Groups

Women

Religious

Racial/Ethnic

LGBTQ+



At-Risk Populations

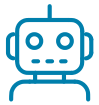
Children, Aging, Poverty, Mental and Physical Disabilities

Displaced Persons

Refugees

Migrant Workers

From Smart to Wise Design



Autonomous



Networked



Sensors



AI/ML



Connectivity



IoT



Collect



Data Analysis



Respond



Automate



Optimize



Interoperability



Remote Access



Efficiency



Tasks



Monitoring

Dr. Robert J. Sternberg defines **wisdom** as "*the use of one's …*

- *intelligence*
- *creativity*
- *common sense, and*
- *knowledge, and*

as mediated by

- *positive ethical values*

toward the achievement of a

- *common good*

through a balance among

1. *intrapersonal,*
2. *interpersonal, and*
3. *extrapersonal interests*

over the

- *short and long terms*

to achieve a balance among

- *adaptation to and shaping of existing environments, and*
- *selection of new environments*."

Applying the Frameworks

Sample Claim: **"Developing countries risk becoming providers of raw data while remaining dependent on proprietary technologies controlled elsewhere."** § III.C, ¶ 26

	The Problem	The Plan
1. AI as an Environment	• Countries positioned as data providers • More data seen as the solution	• Data exists within shared environments • Countries shape and participate in the systems their data creates
2. Dignity by Design	• Humans reduced to others' sources of raw data • No role in how data is used or benefits shared	• Agency, control, and meaningful consent • People share in the benefits their data creates

	The Problem	The Plan
3. From Moral Distance to Moral Imagination	• Distance between those who collect data and those who depend on the technology • Disregard for the human impact of data extraction	• Empathy for people affected by the systems their data shapes • Commitment to ensure people have a meaningful say
4. From Marginalized to Mattering	• Disregard for rights such as FPIC and self-determination • Communities treated as data sources, not decision-makers	• Respect for sovereignty over cultural and knowledge systems • Inclusion that reflects the full complexity of communities
5. From Smart to Wise	• Focus on scale and performance of networked data • Little attention to who controls or benefits from data	• Data used to advance rights, agency, and community interests • Meaningful consent, control, and shared value

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Deep Dive: The Right to Development

Economic, Social, Cultural and Political Development

A companion interactive to the 13th session of the UN Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development, April 2026. Work through five ethical frameworks drawn from Dr. Nathan C. Walker's remarks, apply them to one UN claim in sequence, then explore all four claims from the draft study.

5 Frameworks **4** UN Claims **158** Constitutions **52** Multinational Instruments

Claim A
Data & Dependence

Claim B
Algorithmic Visibility

Claim C
Indigenous Appropriation

Claim D
State Deployment

Interact with the Deep Dive

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Advancing Responsible Technology through Solutions-Based Research and Education