



Beijing Initiative on Digital Science and AI for Global Sustainable Development

On the occasion of the 2026 International Forum on Big Data for Sustainable Development (FBAS 2026), representatives of the scientific community, governments, international organizations, research institutions, universities, and the private sector from around the world have gathered in Beijing to advance dialogue and cooperation on the role of digital science and AI in supporting sustainable development.

As the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development enters its final phase, the world is confronted with interconnected and increasingly complex challenges, such as climate change, biodiversity loss, resource pressures, urban risks, and persistent inequalities. At the same time, rapid advances in big data, artificial intelligence, Earth observation, scientific modelling, and high-performance computing are opening new opportunities to observe changes, understand complex systems, measure progress, and inform pathways towards sustainable development.

Building on the partnership and cooperation established through the *Beijing Declaration on Partnership for Digital Technologies to Accelerate Sustainable Development*, adopted at FBAS 2024, we reaffirm the importance of international scientific cooperation and call for collective action in the following areas:

I. Strengthen Global Cooperation to Co-Create Open Digital Public Goods for Sustainable Development

1. Advance international cooperation for open, trusted, and accessible digital public goods for sustainable development.
2. Ensure equitable access to digital scientific resources to enable all countries and communities to contribute to and benefit from shared knowledge and solutions.
3. Enable policies, funding, infrastructure, and institutional support to strengthen digital science capacity, particularly among young scientists and professionals.



II. Enhance Global–Local Data and Observation Systems for Sustainable Development

4. Strengthen the integration of Earth observation, ground-based monitoring, official statistics, socioeconomic information, indigenous and local knowledge, and other relevant sources of data.
5. Agree on international standards, quality assurance and responsible data governance. Advance the development of trusted, interoperable and AI-ready data infrastructure.
6. Address data gaps in data-scarce regions, so that all countries and communities can benefit from AI and digital science.

III. Develop Digital Indicators and Comprehensive Measurement for Sustainable Development Beyond 2030

7. Advance internationally comparable digital indicators based on robust, spatially explicit, continuously updated data from multiple sources.
8. Harness digital technologies, data and artificial intelligence to advance comprehensive wealth accounting and measurement of well-being.

IV. Strengthen AI-Assisted Evidence-Based Understanding of Sustainable Development

9. Integrate artificial intelligence and data-driven approaches with sustainability science, Earth system science, complex systems science, and social sciences to identify national and regional development options.
10. Combine advanced analytical methods with domain expertise and process-based models to understand the impacts of actions and interactions on sustainable development.
11. Deploy AI to identify synergies among sustainable development options and assess their overall effectiveness.

V. Advance Localized Scenario Modelling and Pathways for Sustainability Transformation



The 6th International Forum on Big Data for Sustainable Development Goals



12. Integrate global data and trend analysis with local data and knowledge to optimize outcomes and inform the technology and investment choices for development projects.

We call upon governments, United Nations entities, other international organizations, scientific institutions, universities, the private sector, funding agencies, civil society and philanthropic organizations to join forces to advance open scientific initiatives, develop shared datasets, models and indicators, and regional projects.

Within the framework of the United Nations International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development, we encourage international scientific programmes, including the Digital Sustainable Development Goals Programme (DSP), to translate these shared priorities into sustained, open, inclusive, and collaborative international scientific action.

Together, let us make sustainable development more measurable and understandable, and pathways for transformation better informed.

By connecting global knowledge with local action through digital science and AI, we can advance a sustainable future for all.