

AI for Good Global Summit 2026

1. Event Overview

The AI for Good Global Summit, organized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), took place at Palexpo, Geneva, from 7 to 10 July 2026, immediately following the Global Dialogue on AI Governance (6–7 July 2026), also held at Palexpo. Together, the two conferences drew more than 12,000 participants from over 170 countries.

2. Side event organized by the Permanent Mission of the Holy See in Geneva

On 8 July 2026 at 17:30, on the Summit's Center Stage, the Permanent Mission of the Holy See convened a high-level conversation on “Magnifica Humanitas”, the first encyclical letter of His Holiness Pope Leo XIV, on the occasion of the AI for Good Global Summit. Participants included:

- Ms. Doreen Bogdan-Martin - Secretary-General, ITU
- H.E. Msgr. Paul Tighe - Dicastery for Culture and Education, Holy See
- Prof. Paolo Carozza - Co-Chair, Meta's Oversight Board; Professor of Law, University of Notre Dame
- Dr. Artur Kluz - CEO and Co-founder, Kluz Ventures

The discussion was moderated by H.E. Archbishop Ettore Balestrero, Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the UN and other International Organizations in Geneva. The session positioned the Holy See as an active advocate for AI ethics.

3. Summit

Recurring threads across sessions were the tension between AI's accelerating capability and the incentives shaping its deployment, the fair distribution of AI's economic value, and the skills needed to use AI responsibly.

- **Civilization-Scale AI Transformation (keynote, Bill Gross, Idealab):** framed the current period as a civilizational shift comparable to, but larger than, the PC, internet and mobile revolutions, describing AI as “democratizing intelligence itself.” Gross outlined three initiatives he has personally pursued: a 50/50 revenue-sharing model compensating publishers whose content trains generative AI (implemented through a licensed-content search tool with more than 1,500 participating publications), tools enabling websites to recapture traffic and monetization lost to AI answer engines, and an entrepreneurship program, drawing on Idealab's record of over 150 companies founded, intended to create new jobs to offset AI-driven job losses, which he estimated could reach tens of millions by 2030.
- **Governance, Standards and Trust panel:** representatives from the World Health Organization, national health ministries (Oman, France, Tunisia), the Wellcome Trust, Makerere University and the Medical Council of Ireland discussed frameworks for trustworthy AI in health systems.
- **Planetary Intelligence (Will Marshall, Co-founder and CEO, Planet):** presented on AI applied to Earth observation, including a beta agentic geospatial tool allowing users to query satellite imagery in natural language.
- **"Don't Die" keynote (Bryan Johnson, Founder, Immortals):** addressed longevity and biotechnology themes.
- **Incentives and governance panel ("Train vs Tracks"):** argued that AI's trajectory is shaped as much by economic and policy incentives as by raw technical capability. Speakers challenged narratives of technological inevitability, drawing on precedents such as the Montreal Protocol, nuclear

arms-control dialogues, and the civil rights movement, and highlighted plans for a nationwide, youth-led public dialogue on AI in Iceland this autumn, alongside the release of a documentary intended to build public clarity on AI's risks.

- **Skills and capacity-building:** included a "Prompt Workshop" on responsible AI use developed with the University of Geneva and partners, and the expansion of the ITU AI Skills Coalition (aiforgood.itu.int/ai-skills-coalition).

4. Closing Ceremony and Outlook

At the closing ceremony, ITU leadership reported that more than 12,000 participants from over 170 countries had taken part across the week, and announced two new initiatives: the AI for Good Labs Initiative, which builds on the existing AI for Good sandboxes to support countries on AI readiness, policy and skills development, and the Agentic AI Security Monitor, a new technical and policy effort to help establish whether the behavior of AI agents can be trusted. ITU also noted that Partner2Connect, its global connectivity coalition, has mobilized more than \$120 billion in pledges toward the 2.2 billion people who remain offline. The next edition of the wider AI Summit series is scheduled for Geneva in June 2027, co-located with AI for Good; the notes indicate this follows an edition hosted in India, with a further edition referenced for the United Arab Emirates.

5. Conclusion

The Summit reinforced Geneva's position as the central venue for multilateral AI governance dialogue, spanning technical demonstrations, industry keynotes, UN agency initiatives and civil society advocacy. The Holy See Mission's panel focused on the Holy See's ethical and theological perspective on AI, demonstrating the role the Church can play in AI governance. Themes recurring across the week, human dignity, fair distribution of AI's economic gains, trustworthy governance, and connectivity, align closely with the concerns raised in the encyclical and may usefully inform the Catholic Church's continued engagement with ITU, WHO and the broader AI for Good ecosystem.

Alongside sober governance and health-equity discussions sat sharply divergent visions of AI's trajectory, from predictions of artificial general intelligence by 2029 and a human-AI "singularity" by 2045, to warnings that unchanged incentive structures could entrench an "intelligence curse" and a "useless class." This spread of views, from techno-optimist to cautionary, illustrates why a values-based, human-dignity-centered voice such as the one offered in "Magnifica Humanitas" continues to find a receptive audience at this forum, and why sustained Holy See Mission and other FBOs presence at future editions is likely to remain worthwhile.