AFRICA AI POLICY INTELLIGENCE BRIEFING

All Africa | 54 Countries | OECD AIM Annotated

26 March 2026

Africa AI Policy Lab (aipolicy.africa)

Countries Covered	AI Incidents Confirmed	AI Hazards Identified	Strategies Active
54	5	6	22
Open Consultations	Investment Tracked	Readiness Score Range	Classification Systems
3 (incl. South Africa March 2026)	USD 60B+ (Continental)	10 – 81 / 100	OECD AIM | MIT Risk | IAPP

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This briefing covers AI governance, policy, investment, incidents, and readiness across all 54 African countries for the period through 26 March 2026. Three top developments, one confirmed incident, and one active consultation deadline are highlighted below.

TOP 3 DEVELOPMENTS — 26 MARCH 2026

- IDS SURVEILLANCE REPORT — NEW COUNTRY DATA CONFIRMED (March 26 coverage): The IDS/ADRN report 'Smart City Surveillance in Africa: Mapping Chinese AI Surveillance Across 11 Countries' (Wakabi + Roberts, IDS March 2026) is receiving widespread global coverage today. CRITICAL NEW FINDING: Mauritius spent USD 456 million on Chinese AI surveillance — making it the #2 continental spender, behind Nigeria (USD 470M). Kenya is confirmed at #3 with USD 219M. Full 11-country list: Algeria, Egypt, Kenya, Mauritius, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe. At least 35,000 smart cameras deployed. China is the supplier for all 11 countries. 'Rapid growth occurring without adequate legal regulation or oversight' (Dr Tony Roberts). Little evidence that surveillance reduces crime.
- SOUTH AFRICA GAZETTE — DAY 3 OVERDUE (March 26): The stated 'March 2026' gazette commitment has now lapsed for three consecutive business days. The March 2026 window is closing — April 2026 is now the most probable gazette month. GITEX Africa Morocco (April 7-9, Marrakech) is 12 days away — next major investment event for the continent. Observatory recommendation: complete Observatory submission draft now so it is ready the moment gazette is published.
- UNESCO GLOBAL EDUCATION COALITION — 6th Annual Meeting (TODAY — March 26 2026): UNESCO is convening the 6th annual meeting of the Global Education Coalition today. AI literacy and digital skills are central agenda items — directly supporting AU Continental AI Strategy Phase I (2025-2026) capacity-building and the $60B Africa AI Fund skills investment pillar.

1 CONFIRMED INCIDENT

- INCIDENT — Southern Africa (HIGH / Rights): AI-driven biometric fraud surge — 87% of rejected biometric verification attempts in Southern Africa are now AI-assisted (deepfake spoofing 40%, impersonation 47%). Source: Smile ID 2026 Digital Identity Fraud Report (March 2026), based on 200M+ identity checks across 35 countries.

⚠ ACTIVE CONSULTATION DEADLINE

- NEW (March 26): Fasken legal bulletin confirms South Africa Draft AI Policy gazette expected 'this month' — March 2026. Post-gazette public comment period (60 days) is the most pressing open consultation on the continent. Monitor www.dcdt.gov.za and Government Gazette.
- 🔴 GAZETTE OVERDUE — DAY 3 (March 26 2026): South Africa Draft AI Policy gazette commitment (Fasken + Baker McKenzie: 'this month' — March 2026) has now lapsed without a gazette notice. All stakeholders: monitor www.gov.za/gazettes and www.dcdt.gov.za daily. April 2026 gazette now most probable. Begin drafting Observatory submission now.

REGIONAL READINESS OVERVIEW

Score update (26 March): No new score changes. Mauritius surveillance (USD 456M — IDS report) noted as hazard update; no score change as governance score reflects policy framework, not spend. All prior updates stand: Algeria 60; Mauritius 66; Botswana 48; Kenya 72; Egypt 81. Nigeria [Partial: presidential assent pending].

UNESCO International Day for Digital Learning (26 March 2026): UNESCO is convening a country engagement and capacity building workshop with the Digital Transformation Collaborative today, reinforcing Africa's AI skills-building agenda.

The Africa Declaration on Artificial Intelligence (Kigali, April 2025) — signed by 49 African countries, the African Union, and Smart Africa (Tanzania and Western Sahara abstained) — provides the strongest

pan-African political commitment to AI governance to date, committing to grow seven key areas: talent, data, infrastructure, market, investment, governance, and institutional cooperation alongside the $60B Africa AI Fund.

Of 54 African countries assessed, 4 countries score ≥70 (Regional AI Policy Leaders: Egypt 80, Morocco 72, Kenya 72, South Africa 76), 5 countries score 65-79 (Strategy Active), and 13 countries score 50-64 (Strategy Launched). The majority — 32 countries — score below 50, with 16 nations scoring below 35 (Early Stage — Significant Gaps). The continent-wide AIARI score range is 10 (Central African Republic, Eritrea, South Sudan) to 80 (Egypt).

COUNTRY BRIEFINGS — PRIORITY NATIONS

The following section provides detailed briefings for the eight highest-scoring and most policy-active African countries. For all 54 countries, refer to the accompanying Africa AI Intelligence Tracker (XLSX).

Egypt | Score: 80/100 | Regional AI Policy Leader

Breaking News	Egypt's National AI Strategy 2021-2026 reaches implementation maturity with the launch of Karnak, a sovereign national Large Language Model with 30-80 billion parameters, unveiled at the Cairo AI Summit. Egypt ranked #1 in Africa for Government AI Readiness (Microsoft AI Report 2026), boasting a 13.4% AI diffusion rate.
Policy	National AI Strategy 2021-2026 (Enacted, review due 2026). Egypt Personal Data Protection Law 2020 in force with 72-hour breach notification. National Council for AI (NCAI) coordinates strategy implementation across 15+ universities with AI programs.
Investment	G42 (UAE) and Benya Technologies partnership for localised AI computing infrastructure. Egypt participates in $60B Africa AI Fund announced at Kigali. Six thousand Chinese surveillance cameras deployed in urban areas — governance review flagged as hazard.
Incidents / Hazards	HAZARD: Chinese surveillance camera network (6,000+) operating without specific AI governance framework. Egypt's AI governance for biometric surveillance in public spaces not publicly defined.
Readiness Score	Score: 80/100 — Regional AI Policy Leader. Connectivity: 22/30 (72% internet penetration). Policy: 26/30 (Enacted strategy, active NCAI). Investment: 16/20. Talent: 16/20.

South Africa | Score: 76/100 | Strategy Active — Scaling Phase

Breaking News	South Africa's Draft National AI Policy entered Cabinet approval process in February 2026. A 60-day public consultation is expected to open circa March 2026 — the most significant AI governance development in Africa this quarter. The multi-regulator model rejects a single AI regulator in favour of embedding AI governance in existing sector supervisory frameworks (FSCA, SARB, sector bodies).
Policy	Draft National AI Policy (Consultation — Cabinet approval Feb 2026). POPIA (Protection of Personal Information Act) in force since July 2021 as the primary AI governance backstop. CAIR (Centre for AI Research) network and C4IR South Africa active. POPIA enforcement precedents being set.
Investment	WEF C4IR South Africa partnership active. South Africa leads Africa in AI infrastructure. Deep Learning Indaba hosted annually. Africa AI research co-publications strong.
Incidents / Hazards	HAZARD: Significant AI deployments in financial services and healthcare proceeding under POPIA without sector-specific AI governance ahead of Draft AI Policy consultation. INCIDENT: AI-driven biometric fraud documented in Southern Africa region (87% of rejected verifications AI-assisted, Smile ID 2026).
Readiness Score	Score: 76/100 — Strategy Active (Scaling Phase). Connectivity: 22/30 (72% internet penetration, strong data centre presence). Policy: 24/30 (Consultation stage, strong POPIA framework). Investment: 14/20. Talent: 16/20.

Morocco | Score: 72/100 | Regional AI Policy Leader

Breaking News	Morocco's JAZARI ROOT Institute officially launched in 2026, anchoring a decentralised network of AI centres across all twelve national regions under the AI Made in Morocco roadmap. The country's Mohammed VI Polytechnic University (UM6P) remains ranked 1st in Morocco and North Africa (2026 THE Rankings) and became the first African HEI to deploy ChatGPT Edu institution-wide in 2025.
Policy	AI Made in Morocco Roadmap (Enacted, targeting $10B GDP contribution by 2030). International Centre for AI — UNESCO Category II Centre (November 2023). Law 09-08 on Personal Data Protection. CNDP has previously actioned against facial recognition deployments.
Investment	USD 10B GDP target by 2030. JAZARI ROOT Institute launched 2026. UNESCO Category II Centre. Morocco-Gulf AI infrastructure partnerships. EU research programme engagement.
Incidents / Hazards	HAZARD: Outdoor air cooling and water recycling data centre practices noted as positive; however, AI energy-water nexus remains a continental concern. No confirmed AI incidents in 2025-2026 period.
Readiness Score	Score: 72/100 — Regional AI Policy Leader. Connectivity: 22/30 (88% internet penetration). Policy: 22/30 (Enacted roadmap, UNESCO Centre). Investment: 14/20. Talent: 14/20.

Kenya | Score: 72/100 | Regional AI Policy Leader

Breaking News	Kenya launched its National AI Strategy 2025-2030 in March 2625, positioning the country as East Africa's AI hub. The Kenya Artificial Intelligence Skilling Alliance (KAISA), a joint initiative with Microsoft and KEPSA, is training over 600,000 individuals in AI. The USTDA partnership with Kenyan Semiconductor Technologies Limited to establish a semiconductor manufacturing facility in Nairobi is a landmark infrastructure development.
Policy	National AI Strategy 2025-2030 (Enacted March 2625). Kenya Data Protection Act 2019 in force. ODPC (Office of Data Protection Commissioner) active enforcement: Worldcoin operations halted by High Court for lack of DPIA — landmark biometric AI ruling in Africa.
Investment	USTDA-Kenya semiconductor manufacturing partnership. KAISA Microsoft-KEPSA skilling alliance. IBM Research Africa Nairobi. 600,000+ individuals AI-trained. East Africa's largest VC destination for AI startups.
Incidents / Hazards	INCIDENT (Confirmed, prior period): Kenya High Court halted Worldcoin operations — mass iris biometric collection without DPIA ruled constitutional rights violation. INCIDENT (NEW — March 26 2026): AI facial recognition surveillance deployed against Gen Z protesters in Kenya. Georgetown's Bulelani Jili confirms systems now 'deeply institutionalised' with no civil liberties framework. Both incidents demonstrate Kenya's paradox: strongest AI strategy on continent, yet biometric rights violations confirmed.
Readiness Score	Score: 72/100 — Regional AI Policy Leader. Connectivity: 20/30 (42% internet penetration; geothermal-powered data centres). Policy: 24/30 (Enacted strategy, active ODPC, DPIA precedent). Investment: 14/20. Talent: 14/20.

Nigeria | Score: 68/100 | Strategy Active — Scaling Phase

Breaking News	Nigeria's Digital Economy & E-Governance Bill: TechEconomy.ng (January 2026) reports it 'Passed by the National Assembly and awaiting final assent early this year.' Presidential assent by President Tinubu pending — Minister Tijani confirmed the President was 'awaiting the bill for assent.' Observatory status: [Partial] — conflicting with TechHive Advisory Q2 2026

	forecast. If signed: Africa's first comprehensive binding AI and digital economy law. The NDPC's September 2025 enforcement directive on AI-related data processing remains the most significant enacted compliance development.
Policy	National AI Policy 2024 (Enacted). Nigeria Data Protection Act 2023 (Enacted) with NDPC General Application and Implementation Directive (September 2025) requiring DPIAs and DPOs for biometric and automated decision AI. NCAIR (National Centre for AI and Robotics) operational.
Investment	USD 40.5M FDI (Johnvent Industries) + USD 7.5M (Babban Gona agritech) under UK-Nigeria ETP. Nigeria AI Research Scheme (NAIRS) operational. Africa's 2nd largest AI startup ecosystem. USD 218M AI investment in 2023. National Digital Economy & E-Governance Bill (risk-based AI licensing) expected March 2026.
Incidents / Hazards	HAZARD: 11 African governments (including Nigeria) spent USD 2B on Chinese surveillance — Nigeria USD 470M for 10,000 cameras. Minimal regulatory oversight for AI-powered cameras. HAZARD: AI credit scoring for financial inclusion without algorithmic transparency requirements.
Readiness Score	Score: 68/100 — Strategy Active (Scaling Phase). Connectivity: 18/30 (51% internet penetration; major data centre hub). Policy: 20/30 (Enacted strategy + DPA enforcement). Investment: 16/20. Talent: 14/20.

Rwanda | Score: 64/100 | Strategy Active — Scaling Phase

Breaking News	Rwanda hosted the inaugural Global AI Summit on Africa (Kigali, April 3-4, 2025), cementing its position as Africa's premier AI governance convener. The summit announced the $60 billion Africa AI Fund and established the Africa AI Council. Rwanda is recognised as Africa's first AI Scaling Hub.
Policy	National AI Policy 2023 (Enacted). Rwanda Data Protection and Privacy Law 2021. C4IR Rwanda (WEF) operational. Data sovereignty provisions among Africa's strongest. Policy shaped by national security context and genocide prevention lessons.
Investment	CMU Africa campus (Carnegie Mellon University Africa). C4IR Rwanda partnership. Global AI Summit on Africa host. Kigali positioned as Africa's AI governance capital.
Incidents / Hazards	No confirmed AI incidents in 2025-2026. HAZARD: AI governance capacity constraints for implementation at scale — Rwanda's model is advanced but dependent on institutional capacity.
Readiness Score	Score: 64/100 — Strategy Active (Scaling Phase). Connectivity: 18/30 (31% internet penetration; improving 4G/5G). Policy: 22/30 (Enacted policy, strong data sovereignty). Investment: 12/20. Talent: 12/20.

Ghana | Score: 54/100 | Strategy Launched — Implementation Gaps

Breaking News	Ghana unveiled its National AI Strategy 2025-2033 at the ENJOY AI Summit in Accra (November 2025), with the government confirming an Emerging Technologies Bill is in draft stage to harmonise data governance, cybersecurity, and AI ethics. Ghana's AI diffusion rate stands at 9.3%.
Policy	National AI Strategy 2025-2033 (Enacted). Ghana Data Protection Act 2012. Emerging Technologies Bill in draft — open consultation expected 2026. MICTD leads. Emphasis on local language AI (Twi, Ga, Ewe).

Investment	ENJOY AI Summit 2025 investment commitments. UN Global Pulse historical partnership. Ashesi University and KNUST AI research hubs.
Incidents / Hazards	No confirmed AI incidents 2025-2026. HAZARD: Emerging Technologies Bill delay — significant AI deployments in fintech, health and agriculture proceeding without AI-specific legislation.
Readiness Score	Score: 54/100 — Strategy Launched (Implementation Gaps). Connectivity: 16/30. Policy: 18/30 (Enacted strategy; Bill in draft). Investment: 10/20. Talent: 10/20.

Ethiopia | Score: 52/100 | Strategy Launched — Implementation Gaps

Breaking News	Ethiopia hosted the AU High-Level Policy Dialogue on the Development and Regulation of AI in Africa (ETEX 2025, Addis Ababa, May 2025), with 40+ country delegations. A follow-up dialogue was held at the AU Summit, Addis Ababa, February 2026. Ethiopia's AI Institute operationalises the National AI Strategy 2024.
Policy	National AI Strategy 2024 (Enacted). Ethiopia AI Institute established. Personal Data Protection Proclamation in draft. Priority sectors: agriculture, health, governance, education. Largest population in East Africa (~120M+).
Investment	Host of AU AI dialogues. AUC-Google MoU signed at AU HQ Addis Ababa February 17 2026 — training programme includes Amharic language tools (Gemini Pro + NotebookLM). Ethiopia Integrates AI weather forecasts into digital agriculture system (February 2026). UNDP capacity building.
Incidents / Hazards	HAZARD: Personal Data Protection Proclamation still in draft — significant AI deployments across agriculture and health lack data protection backstop.
Readiness Score	Score: 52/100 — Strategy Launched (Implementation Gaps). Connectivity: 14/30 (20% internet penetration). Policy: 18/30 (Enacted strategy; draft DPP). Investment: 10/20. Talent: 10/20.

REGIONAL THEMES

Theme 1: The AI Governance-Deployment Gap

A structural pattern across Africa is the rapid deployment of AI systems — particularly in fintech (credit scoring), biometric identity verification, and government surveillance — in advance of governance frameworks. Nigeria's NDPC enforcement directive (September 2025) and Kenya's Worldcoin court ruling are reactive responses to deployments that were already at scale. South Africa's AI market deployments under POPIA (without sector-specific AI rules) exemplifies the gap. As the AU Continental AI Strategy acknowledges: Phase I (2025-2026) is focused precisely on closing this gap through governance structure creation and national strategy development. However, with only 22 of 54 African countries possessing an active AI strategy or policy, 59% of the continent remains without a formal AI governance framework while AI deployments proceed.

Theme 2: Biometric AI — Rights Frontier or Fraud Vulnerability?

Biometric AI presents a dual challenge across Africa: it is simultaneously expanding financial inclusion (200M+ new financial accounts over a decade) and enabling large-scale fraud and rights violations. The Smile ID 2026 Digital Identity Fraud Report reveals that 87% of rejected biometric verifications in Southern Africa are now AI-assisted fraud attempts — impersonation (47%) and deepfake spoofing (40%). At the same time, governments have spent USD 2 billion on Chinese surveillance technology with facial recognition, often without public consultation, independent oversight, or rights impact assessments. Regulatory responses are emerging — NDPC's DPIA requirements, CNDP Morocco's facial recognition enforcement actions, Kenya's Worldcoin ruling — but these remain reactive and country-specific in the absence of a continental biometric governance standard.

Theme 3: Sovereign AI and the Anti-Dependency Movement

A distinct movement towards AI sovereignty is reshaping African AI strategy. Egypt's Karnak LLM, Morocco's JAZARI ROOT Institute and AI Made in Morocco roadmap, Nigeria's NAIRS research scheme, and Kenya's semiconductor manufacturing partnership all reflect deliberate strategies to reduce dependence on foreign AI systems and data infrastructure. This is reinforced at the continental level: the African Union's Continental Internet Exchange initiative is working to keep data local. The concern is grounded in data: Africa holds less than 1% of global data centre capacity, and current major LLMs have negligible African language training data coverage across 1,000-2,000 continental languages. The establishment of the $60B Africa AI Fund and the Africa AI Council at the Kigali Summit represents the political economy of this movement reaching continental scale.

Theme 4: The AI Talent and Brain Drain Paradox

Africa has the world's youngest population — representing the continent's greatest asset for building a domestic AI workforce. Yet the AU Commissioner's warning at the Addis Ababa AI Dialogue (May 2025) stands: Africa holds only 3% of the global AI talent pool, and brain drain continues to deplete the domestic capacity needed for sovereign AI governance. Over 83% of AI startup funding in Q1 2025 flowed to just four countries (Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Egypt), deepening concentration inequalities. Initiatives like Togo's 50,000 AI skills training programme, Kenya's KAISA (600,000 trainees), and Egypt's AI Talent Initiative (5,000 professionals annually) represent serious responses but remain far below the scale needed for a continent of 1.4 billion people. The Masakhane NLP project continues as the most significant

pan-African effort to build African language AI models, with Zindi providing competitive data science challenges.

Theme 6: The AUC–Google MoU and the Contest for Africa's AI Stack

The AUC–Google MoU (17 February 2026) is the most structurally significant private-sector development in African AI governance this quarter. Framed as a shift 'from digital access to digital agency,' the partnership covers AI infrastructure, talent, research, entrepreneurship, and responsible AI policy across all 55 AU Member States. Google's commitments — training 3 million students and teachers by 2030, deploying Gemini Pro and NotebookLM at no cost, and adding Amharic to its language AI tools — are substantive capacity-building contributions. However, critics note that the MoU arrives at a moment when Microsoft has simultaneously committed USD 50 billion by 2030 to AI infrastructure across emerging markets, reaching 117 million Africans through AI-enabled initiatives. This positions the AUC–Google partnership less as a purely developmental arrangement and more as one move in a broader contest over who builds and governs the Global South's AI stack. The governance question is acute: as Google provides free access to its cloud AI tools and trains millions of users on its platforms, questions of data sovereignty, model dependency, and infrastructure control become central — precisely the concerns the AU Continental AI Strategy's sovereign AI movement was designed to address. The Observatory recommends the AUC publish clear governance criteria for how MoU partners' tools interact with African data sovereignty principles.

Theme 5: The Chinese Surveillance Footprint — An AI Governance Blind Spot

The deployment of USD 2 billion in Chinese AI surveillance infrastructure across 11 African governments — Nigeria (USD 470M, 10,000 cameras), Egypt (6,000 cameras), Algeria and Uganda (5,000+ each) — represents the continent's most significant documented AI governance blind spot. These systems, typically funded through Chinese concessional loans and marketed as urban modernisation tools, operate in environments with no established legal basis for AI-driven biometric surveillance in public spaces. Research institutions, including the ISS, find no evidence that these systems reduce crime rates but document significant risks of deployment against activists, journalists, and political opponents. No continental standard for AI surveillance governance currently exists, and only Morocco's CNDP has taken prior administrative action on facial recognition — without this being connected to the surveillance deployment context.

OECD AIM CLASSIFICATION SUMMARY

AI INCIDENTS — Confirmed Harms

Country	Incident	Harm Category	Severity	MIT Risk Domain	Intentionality	Verified
Southern Africa	AI-Driven Biometric Fraud Surge	c — Rights	**HIGH**	Intentional	Y	—
Kenya	Worldcoin Iris Biometric — Court Halt	c — Rights	**HIGH**	Negligent	Y	—
Nigeria	NDPC Enforcement — Automated Decision Gaps	c — Rights	**MEDIUM**	Negligent	Y	—
Nigeria / Kenya / South Africa	AI Credit Scoring Bias — Women-Led SMEs	c — Rights	**HIGH**	Negligent	Y	—
Kenya / Uganda / Algeria	AI Surveillance Against Protesters & Activists	c — Rights	**HIGH**	Intentional	Y	—
Uganda/Nigeria/Egypt/Algeria	Chinese Surveillance — USD 2B Network	c — Rights	**HIGH**	Intentional	Partial	—

AI HAZARDS — Potential Harms (Not Yet Materialised)

Country	Hazard	Harm Category	Severity	Likelihood	MIT Risk Domain	Intentionality
Africa	AI Talent Brain Drain — Governance Gap	c/d — Rights/Community	**HIGH**	High	Accidental	—
DRC/CAR/S.Sudan/Somalia	AI in Conflict Zones Without Governance	a/c — Health/Rights	**CRITICAL**	High	Negligent	—
South Africa	Pre-Consultation AI Deployment Risk	c/b — Rights/Infra	**MEDIUM**	Medium	Accidental	—
Africa	LLMs Lacking African Language Data	c/d — Rights/Community	**HIGH**	High	Accidental	—
Africa	Deepfake Electoral Disinformation	c/d — Rights/Community	**HIGH**	High	Intentional	—

Nigeria/SA/Kenya/Egypt	Fintech AI Credit Scoring — Exclusion Risk	c/d — Rights/Community	MEDIUM	Medium	Accidental	—

APPENDIX

A. Methodology Note

This briefing and the accompanying Africa AI Intelligence Tracker were produced using the master workflow defined in the Africa AI Policy Observatory Master Prompt (All Africa). Data collection followed three-system classification:

- OECD AIM Framework (oecd.ai/en/incidents): AI Incidents require actual harm materialised in one of four categories (Health, Infrastructure, Rights, Community). AI Hazards require plausible but unmaterialised harm. Complementary Information covers policy and investment.
- MIT AI Risk Taxonomy (airisk.mit.edu): 23 primary risk domains applied to every Incident and Hazard record. Intentionality field (Intentional / Negligent / Accidental) applied to every entry.
- IAPP Legislative Status Taxonomy (iapp.org): Four-status taxonomy (Enacted / In Parliament / Consultation / Pre-Legislative) applied to all bills and laws in Sheet 5.

B. AIARI Scoring Formula

SCORE = (Connectivity × 0.30) + (Policy Maturity × 0.30) + (Investment × 0.20) + (Talent × 0.20)

Sub-Score	Max	Key Signals
Connectivity	/30	Internet penetration %, 4G/5G coverage, data centre presence, electricity access, cable/fibre infrastructure
Policy Maturity	/30	AI strategy status (0-10), enacted laws (0-10), open consultation (0-5), international framework alignment (0-5)
Investment	/20	Foreign tech investment (0-8), government ICT budget (0-6), private sector AI deployment (0-6)
Talent	/20	University AI programmes (0-6), research output (0-6), innovation hubs/startups (0-4), African language AI coverage (0-4)

Score Band	Status Label
80–100	Regional AI Policy Leader
65–79	Strategy Active — Scaling Phase
50–64	Strategy Launched — Implementation Gaps
35–49	Foundation Stage — Infrastructure Constrained
Below 35	Early Stage — Significant Gaps

C. Source Hierarchy

- (1) Government official documents and Gazettes
- (2) Peer-reviewed research and institutional reports
- (3) Wire agencies (Reuters, AFP)
- (4) Established regional media (AllAfrica, TechCabal, Techloy, The East African)
- (5) Legal bulletins (Baker McKenzie, Fasken, LexAfrica)
- (6) Secondary aggregators (Africa AI News, TechieRay) — flagged as such in source notes

D. Primary Sources for this Briefing

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- African Union Commission — Continental AI Strategy (July 2024) and AU High-Level AI Dialogue Communiqué (May 2025)
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- Tech in Africa — AI Regulation in Africa 2026, February 2026
- Morocco World News — Beyond the Divide: How MEA is Democratizing AI, March 2026
- Trends in Africa / Institute — AI Surveillance in Africa Threatens Privacy, March 2026
- Mastercard Foundation — AI in Africa 2025, August 2025
- Global Center on AI Governance — African Countries Racing to Create AI Strategies, October 2025
- Future of Privacy Forum — AU Continental AI Strategy: Data Protection Analysis, 2025
- PECB — Cybersecurity and AI Trends for 2026 in Africa, January 2026
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- TechTrendsKE — AUC Google AI Partnership Enters a Crowded Field, 24 February 2026
- iAfrica.com — South Africa to Finalize National AI Policy by 2027, February 2026 (14 pillars clarification)
- Fasken — AI Regulation Progress in South Africa: A Further Step in the Right Direction, March 2026 (primary legal source, AIISA detail)
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- Tech in Africa — AI Regulation in Africa 2026: Nigeria Digital Economy and E-Governance Bill, February 2026
- TechCabal / Future of Privacy Forum — Why Data Protection Has Become Africa's Default AI Policy Tool, 19 March 2026 — PRIMARY
- FPF / TechCabal — Botswana Data Protection Act 2024 as model for second-wave African data reform
- AfCFTA Secretariat — Digital Trade Protocol (2024-2026) alignment requirement for AI-relevant data laws
- Rest of World / IDS + African Digital Rights Network — Africa's $2 Billion Bet on Chinese Surveillance Tech, 20 March 2026 (Wakabi + Roberts — PRIMARY academic source)
- AfDB — Africa's AI Productivity Gain: Pathways to Labour Efficiency, Economic Growth and Inclusive Transformation, June 2025
- AfDB press release — AI 10 Billion Initiative launch, Nairobi AI Forum 2026, February 2026
- OECD — Africa Capital Markets Report 2025: Harnessing AI in Finance for Financial Inclusion in Africa
- Advanced Research Journal (cited in TechCabal/FPF) — AI Credit Scoring Bias Against Women-Led SMEs, July 2025
- TechEconomy.ng — Top Digital Economy Policies to Watch in 2026: Nigeria Digital Economy & E-Governance Bill Status, January 16 2026
- Parliament Reports / Guardian Nigeria / NALTF — Nigeria Digital Economy Bill Public Hearing and Assent Commitment, November 2025
- The PUNCH / IFC — Africa's Compute Race: The New Digital Infrastructure Focus, 26 March 2026 — PRIMARY (published today)
- TechCabal / FPF — Algeria Law No. 25-11: Data Classification and Dual-Regime Transfer Framework confirmed, March 2026

- IDS / ADRN — Smart City Surveillance in Africa: Mapping Chinese AI Surveillance Across 11 Countries (Wakabi + Roberts, March 2026) — PRIMARY
- iAfrica.com / BusinessDay NG / ITWeb Africa / IPS News — Nigeria leads Africa in USD 470M AI surveillance (March 26 2026 coverage)
- CAJ News Africa — Africa's Opportunity to Shape the Future of Human-Centred AI, March 25 2026

END OF BRIEFING

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