



CONCEPT NOTE

JIA 2026 – Artificial Intelligence Days

Libreville, Gabon

8-10 Avril 2026

1. Background

For more than a decade, Gabon has positioned digital transformation as a central lever for modernizing the State and diversifying its economy. The National Growth and Development Plan (PNCD), launched in July 2025 and aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Agenda 2063, aims to provide the country with a consensual national planning framework that enables optimal programming of public investments. This strategic approach fully reflects the vision of the Head of State and Head of Government, **His Excellency Brice Clotaire Oligui Nguema**.

The **PNCD 2026–2030** is structured around six major pillars:

1. Universal access to water and electricity and modernization of public services;
2. Promotion of entrepreneurship and youth employability;
3. Modern infrastructure, housing, and digital transformation;
4. Human capital, social justice, and equity;
5. Economic diversification and environmental resilience;
6. Efficient governance, credible institutions, and the rule of law.

Gabon's digital transformation, supported by the law ratifying Ordinance No. 0006/PR of 12 August 2025 on the regulation of digitalization in the Gabonese Republic, particularly aims to:

- Modernize public administration through the digitalization of public services and government payments, improving transparency, administrative efficiency, and system interoperability;

- Strengthen digital sovereignty through the development of high-speed infrastructure and the establishment of national data centers for local data management and services;
- Promote digital inclusion for all citizens by reducing the digital divide and improving quality of life through the development of digital services, the creation of skilled jobs, and the upskilling of Gabonese youth;
- Position Gabon as a technology hub in Central Africa.

Since the political transition initiated in 2023, digital transformation has become a major driver of national modernization and is fully integrated into the **National Growth and Development Plan (PNCD 2026–2030)**, where it stands at the core of national priorities.

The **Artificial Intelligence Days (JIA) 2026 – Libreville** are organized within this national context, particularly in the momentum created by the PNCD and Gabon’s digital transformation strategy, which consider digital technologies and artificial intelligence as key drivers of economic diversification.

In this context, HumanAI and CONIIA, The EU-Africa Chamber of Commerce, the Government of the Gabonese Republic, and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), through its Subregional Office for Central Africa (SRO-CA), are co-organizing the Artificial Intelligence Days (JIA) 2026 in Libreville under the theme:

“Artificial Intelligence, Digital Sovereignty and Economic Diversification: Accelerating the Implementation of the PNCD and Gabon’s Digital Strategy.”

ECA joins this initiative to ensure that the themes, case studies, and recommendations produced:

- Contribute to the development of a clear roadmap for the preparation of Gabon’s National Artificial Intelligence Strategy;
- Align with continental and subregional priorities (Agenda 2063, SDGs, regional integration, economic diversification);
- Can be translated into public policy reforms in Gabon and potentially serve as a reference for other Central African countries;
- Promote the responsible adoption of AI, respecting human rights, social inclusion, public finance sustainability, and sustainable development objectives.

As the United Nations institution responsible for promoting economic development across Africa, ECA contributes:

- Strategic and analytical guidance on AI, digital transformation, finance, governance, and industrial policy;

- The mobilization of its technical divisions, Subregional Office for Central Africa, and network of experts to share experiences and best practices from other African countries;
- The capacity to transform the outcomes of the JIA into policy briefs, roadmaps, and targeted technical assistance (diagnostics, studies, technical support, public–private dialogues);
- A role as guardian of balance between technological innovation, rights protection, social inclusion, and development objectives.

This collaboration relies on a strategic complementarity:

- The EU-Africa Chamber of commerce supports the **Digital Innovation and Artificial Intelligence Competition**, which will showcase some of the most promising startups on the continent. Selected startups will present their innovative solutions before a panel of experts and investors during pitch sessions, thereby fostering access to financing, networking opportunities, and the emergence of a dynamic entrepreneurial ecosystem around AI.
- HumanAI & CONIIA provide the strategic and technological leadership of the initiative as designers and promoters of the Artificial Intelligence Days, ensuring coherence between national needs and emerging AI innovations and mobilizing a network of experts.
- ECA provides strategic guidance and normative alignment, ensuring consistency with African agendas, supporting reforms, structuring policy messages, and mobilizing regional and international partners.
- The Government of Gabon provides the political leadership of the initiative and ensures its anchoring in national priorities (PNCD, sectoral strategies, and ongoing reforms).

Together, they aim to make JIA 2026 – Libreville a national and potentially subregional accelerator for concrete AI projects, designed with Gabonese institutions, for Gabon’s needs, and potentially documented by ECA as best practices for Central Africa.

2. Overall Objective

Under the joint leadership of the Government of Gabon, HumanAI & CONIIA, and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the Artificial Intelligence Days (JIA) 2026 – Libreville aim to establish a national reference framework with subregional reach for aligning the development and use of artificial intelligence with the priorities of the PNCD and Gabon’s digital strategies, while leveraging ECA’s normative and analytical expertise to translate this ambition into policy reforms, pilot projects, and concrete partnerships.

3. Specific Objectives

Operationally, JIA 2026 pursues the following objectives:

1. **Develop a shared vision for AI in Gabon**, aligning national priorities (PNCD and digitalization regulations) with continental and subregional frameworks promoted by ECA (Agenda 2063, SDGs, regional integration, and economic diversification), while leveraging the strategic and operational expertise of HumanAI & CONIIA.
2. **Strengthen the strategic and technical capacities of Gabonese institutions** (ministries, regulators, public agencies, and local authorities) to design, manage, and regulate AI-based public policies through:
 - Analytical and methodological support from ECA (policy briefs, diagnostic tools, African and international benchmarks);
 - Capacity-building sessions co-facilitated by HumanAI & CONIIA.
3. **Identify and prioritize concrete AI use cases** across key sectors such as governance, public finance, health, education, agriculture, social protection, environment, natural resource management, infrastructure, industry, and services.
4. **Co-develop a National AI Roadmap**, facilitated by ECA, including:
 - A limited but strategic set of priority pilot projects;
 - Required regulatory or institutional reforms;
 - Mapping of potential financial and technical partnerships;
 - An indicative implementation and monitoring timeline.
5. **Strengthen the national AI ecosystem** by fostering stronger collaboration among:
 - Public institutions;
 - Private sector actors, startups, and business chambers;
 - Universities and research centers;
 - Civil society organizations and youth networks.
6. **Establish a post-JIA monitoring mechanism**, jointly managed by the Government of Gabon, HumanAI & CONIIA, and ECA.

4. Central Theme and Thematic Axes

Central Theme

Artificial Intelligence, Digital Sovereignty and Economic Diversification: Accelerating the Implementation of the PNCD and Gabon's Digital Strategy

Thematic Areas

- Governance, regulatory frameworks, and digital sovereignty
- AI for public sector modernization
- AI, economic inclusion, and new service models
- Skills development, education, youth employment, and entrepreneurship
- AI for green and blue economy development
- AI, data, and strategic PNCD sectors

5. Event Format and Structure

The **JIA 2026 – Libreville** will take place over three days.

Format:

A national event in Libreville with participation from invited delegations from Central Africa and a hybrid participation format.

Venue:

To be confirmed with the Government of Gabon.

Working language:

French (with possible English interpretation).

Indicative program:

- **Day 1:** Vision, public policies, and regulatory frameworks
- **Day 2:** Sectoral use cases and innovation
- **Day 3:** Skills, national roadmap, and follow-up mechanism

6. Strategic Partnerships and Roles

The **Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)** co-leads the strategic orientation of the JIA alongside the Government of Gabon and HumanAI & CONIIA. It ensures alignment with

African agendas, mobilizes experts and technical divisions, and supports the translation of JIA outcomes into policy recommendations.

The Government of the Gabonese Republic provides political leadership for the initiative, mobilizes sectoral ministries and institutions, defines national priorities, facilitates the organization of the event, and ensures the integration of outcomes into the implementation of the PNCD.

HumanAI & CONIIA, as initiators of the JIA, contribute operational expertise in artificial intelligence, identify and demonstrate concrete use cases, co-facilitate workshops and masterclasses, and support national teams in the adoption and deployment of AI solutions.

The EU–Africa Chamber of Commerce contributes to strengthening economic and technological partnerships between Africa and Europe in the field of artificial intelligence. It mobilizes its network of companies and investors to foster investment opportunities, industrial partnerships, and startup access to financing, particularly through the **Digital Innovation and Artificial Intelligence Competition**.

7. Target Participants

JIA 2026 will bring together:

- Government members and sectoral ministries
- Regulatory authorities
- Public administrations
- Financial institutions and private sector operators
- Startups, SMEs, and innovation support structures
- Universities and research institutions
- Civil society organizations and youth networks

8. Expected Results

- A clear roadmap for the development of Gabon’s National AI Strategy
- A shared diagnostic of AI opportunities, risks, and challenges for Gabon
- Operational recommendations for legal, regulatory, and institutional frameworks
- Strengthened capacities of public institutions and ecosystem actors

- The structuring of a national AI ecosystem
- A formal monitoring mechanism between the Government of Gabon, HumanAI & CONIIA, and ECA

9. Medium-Term Impact

In the medium term, JIA 2026 is expected to contribute to:

- Modernized public services
- Improved transparency and public sector performance
- The creation of high-skilled jobs in digital technologies and AI
- A more diversified and competitive economy
- Data-driven governance
- Better protection of citizens
- Greater regional influence for Gabon in Central Africa

10. Conclusion

The **Artificial Intelligence Days 2026 – Libreville** represent a strategic opportunity to accelerate Gabon’s digital transition, support the ambitions of the PNCD, and advance ECA’s priorities in structural transformation, innovation, and sustainable development.

By working together — HumanAI, CONIIA, the EU-Africa Chamber of commerce, the Government of Gabon, ECA, and development partners — with Gabonese stakeholders, by Gabonese stakeholders, and for Gabonese stakeholders, JIA 2026 will lay the foundations for a sovereign, inclusive, and sustainable AI ecosystem, serving present and future generations.

11. Contacts

- Government of the Gabonese Republic
- United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) – Subregional Office for Central Africa
- HumanAI & CONIIA