

**Statement – Making Artificial Intelligence (AI) Accessible, Inclusive and Beneficial for All**  
*Delivered at the United Nations by Mr. Amadou Sako, Adviser at the International Organisation of Employers (IOE)*

Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

Artificial Intelligence is not simply a technological advance. It is a force that is redefining the global economy, the future of work, and the way societies progress. For business, the promise of AI lies not only in automation but in acceleration of innovation, of productivity, and of human potential.

To unlock this promise, we must begin with people. Productivity gains will only be sustained if we prepare individuals for the new demands of work. Access to AI must go hand in hand with access to skills. From digital literacy to advanced problem-solving, the ability to engage meaningfully with AI must not be a privilege. It must become a baseline. The private sector is already taking the lead through training investments and public-private partnerships, but greater coordination is essential.

Inclusion also requires attention to small and medium-sized enterprises. These businesses are vital to employment and local development, yet often face the highest barriers in adopting advanced technologies. We must ensure that access to digital infrastructure, financing, and capacity-building reaches across borders and sectors.

At the International Organisation of Employers, we have created the Business Alliance for AI and Digitalisation Policy to support this vision. This Alliance provides a global platform for business to engage in shaping policy that is coherent, innovation-friendly, and inclusive. It promotes practical solutions that address workforce needs while reinforcing responsible and ethical AI deployment.

If we act with ambition and clarity, we can ensure AI works for everyone. The opportunity is immense. The responsibility is shared.

Thank you.