

Embassy Lecture — “The Role of Science Diplomacy in Strengthening Cooperation in Artificial Intelligence”

Date: 8 July 2026

Time: 10:00–11:30

RSVP: [Click here](#) to register

1 BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

Artificial intelligence (AI) is rapidly transforming economies and societies, with significant implications for inclusive growth, public services, industrial development, and skills across Africa and globally.

Both South Africa and Tunisia have identified digital transformation and AI as strategic priorities within their national and regional STI frameworks.

The cooperation between African countries in AI is increasingly recognised as vital for building shared capabilities, norms and opportunities.

Science diplomacy provides a neutral, knowledge-based interface to build trust, align regulatory and ethical approaches, and co-develop research and capacity-building initiatives in AI that benefit all partners.

2 PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES



- Highlight current and potential areas of AI cooperation between South Africa, Tunisia and the broader African region, research collaboration, skills development, and innovation partnerships.



- Illustrate how science diplomacy tools (joint programmes, people-to-people exchanges, co-funded research, policy dialogues) can support responsible and inclusive AI development.



- Facilitate exchange between diplomats, policymakers, scientists, private sector and youth on the opportunities and risks of AI for sustainable development.



- Inspire tertiary students, early-career researchers and young innovators to engage in AI-related fields and international collaboration.

3 FORMAT AND MODALITY

Online format to maximise reach and inclusivity.

Indicative duration: 90 minutes, combining a keynote address, panel discussion and interactive Q&A.