

## Leveraging Artificial Intelligence for Economic Growth and Sustainable Development in Nigeria

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### Abstract

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Artificial Intelligence (AI) has emerged as a transformative technology with significant implications for economic growth and sustainable development across the globe. In Nigeria, the increasing adoption of AI technologies presents opportunities for improving productivity, enhancing public service delivery, stimulating innovation, and addressing developmental challenges. Despite these prospects, the effective utilization of AI remains constrained by infrastructural deficits, inadequate digital literacy, weak regulatory frameworks, and limited investments in research and development. This study adopts a qualitative research approach based on documentary analysis of scholarly literature, policy documents, and institutional reports to examine the nexus between artificial intelligence, economic growth, and sustainable development in Nigeria. The study explores the conceptual foundations of AI, its contributions to economic development, and its relevance to the attainment of sustainable development goals. Anchored on Innovation Diffusion Theory, the paper argues that the successful integration of AI into Nigeria's development agenda depends on the establishment of an enabling environment characterized by robust digital infrastructure, human capital development, supportive policies, and ethical governance mechanisms. The study concludes that AI possesses enormous potential to accelerate economic transformation and sustainable development in Nigeria if properly harnessed. It recommends increased investment in digital infrastructure, AI education, regulatory reforms, public-private partnerships, and inclusive technological policies to ensure equitable and sustainable outcomes.

**Keywords:** *Artificial Intelligence, Economic Growth, Sustainable Development, Innovation, Nigeria, Digital Economy.*

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## **Background to the Study**

The twenty-first century has witnessed unprecedented technological advancement, transforming the ways societies produce, consume, communicate, and govern. Among these technological innovations, Artificial Intelligence (AI) has emerged as one of the most transformative forces shaping contemporary economic and social development. Artificial Intelligence refers to the ability of computer systems and machines to perform tasks that ordinarily require human intelligence, including learning, reasoning, perception, decision-making, language processing, and problem-solving (Russell & Norvig, 2021). Through machine learning, deep learning, natural language processing, robotics, and predictive analytics, AI has revolutionized various sectors of the global economy, becoming a strategic tool for enhancing productivity, efficiency, and competitiveness. Globally, governments and private organizations are increasingly investing in AI technologies because of their potential to accelerate economic growth and facilitate sustainable development. According to the World Economic Forum (2024), AI-driven technologies are expected to contribute significantly to global economic output by improving operational efficiency, reducing production costs, enhancing innovation, and creating new business opportunities. Advanced economies such as the United States, China, Germany, and Japan have integrated AI into their industrial, educational, healthcare, and governance systems, resulting in substantial improvements in productivity and service delivery. The growing relevance of AI extends beyond economic productivity to broader developmental outcomes. The United Nations recognizes technological innovation as a critical enabler of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly in areas such as poverty reduction, quality education, healthcare delivery, environmental sustainability, food security, and inclusive economic growth (United Nations, 2023).

AI-powered technologies are increasingly being utilized to optimize resource allocation, predict environmental risks, improve agricultural output, expand financial inclusion, and strengthen public sector governance. Consequently, AI is now viewed as a catalyst for sustainable development due to its capacity to address complex developmental challenges through data-driven and innovative solutions. For developing countries, the adoption of AI presents significant opportunities for economic transformation. In Africa, governments are increasingly recognizing the potential of digital technologies to accelerate development and bridge socio-economic inequalities. Nigeria, as Africa's largest economy and most populous nation, stands at a critical juncture in its technological development trajectory. The country possesses enormous demographic and economic potential, characterized by a youthful population, expanding digital markets, and a growing technology ecosystem. The emergence of technology hubs in Lagos, Abuja, Port Harcourt, and other urban centers demonstrates Nigeria's increasing participation in the global digital economy. Artificial Intelligence offers numerous opportunities for Nigeria's development agenda. In agriculture, AI can facilitate precision farming, crop disease detection, weather forecasting, and yield optimization. The agricultural sector remains a major contributor to Nigeria's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and employs a significant proportion of the population. AI-driven agricultural solutions can therefore enhance food security, increase productivity, and improve farmers' incomes.

Similarly, in healthcare, AI applications can improve disease diagnosis, patient management, medical imaging, and healthcare planning, thereby strengthening the nation's health system. The financial sector has also witnessed increasing integration of AI technologies through digital banking platforms, automated customer services, fraud detection systems, and financial inclusion initiatives. These innovations have enhanced access to financial services, particularly among underserved populations.

Furthermore, AI applications in education can support personalized learning, improve educational administration, and increase access to quality learning opportunities. Within public administration, AI has the potential to enhance governance through data analytics, policy formulation, public service delivery, and transparency mechanisms. Despite these prospects, Nigeria continues to face substantial challenges in leveraging AI for economic growth and sustainable development. Infrastructural deficiencies, particularly inadequate electricity supply and limited broadband penetration, constrain technological adoption and innovation. According to the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC, 2024), internet access remains unevenly distributed across urban and rural communities, thereby creating digital inequalities. Furthermore, inadequate investment in research and development, limited availability of skilled AI professionals, weak institutional frameworks, and regulatory uncertainties continue to impede the widespread deployment of AI technologies. Another significant concern relates to ethical and governance issues associated with AI deployment. Questions surrounding data privacy, cybersecurity, algorithmic bias, accountability, and employment displacement have generated increasing scholarly and policy debates. While AI has the potential to create new employment opportunities, automation may simultaneously displace certain categories of jobs, particularly those involving routine and repetitive tasks. Consequently, there is a need for proactive policy interventions that can maximize the benefits of AI while mitigating its associated risks.

Several scholars have emphasized the strategic importance of technological innovation in achieving national development objectives. Anam et al. (2023) argue that sustainable economic transformation in Nigeria requires effective integration of innovation-driven policies capable of enhancing productivity, competitiveness, and inclusive growth. Similarly, emerging literature on artificial intelligence highlights its capacity to transform economies by fostering innovation, improving efficiency, and facilitating sustainable development outcomes (Fazal, Ahmed & Abbas, 2024; Anekwe, Nwanah & Nwatu, 2025). This study examines the role of artificial intelligence in promoting economic growth and sustainable development in Nigeria. The study explores the conceptual foundations of AI, evaluates its contributions to economic development, investigates its implications for sustainable development, and identifies the challenges hindering its adoption. By doing so, the paper contributes to the growing discourse on digital transformation and sustainable development within the Nigerian context and provides policy recommendations for enhancing the effective utilization of AI as a tool for national development.

## **Objectives of the Study**

The study seeks to:

- i. Examine the concept of artificial intelligence and its relevance to economic growth and sustainable development.
- ii. Analyze the contributions of artificial intelligence to economic growth in Nigeria.
- iii. Assess the role of artificial intelligence in promoting sustainable development in Nigeria.
- iv. Identify the challenges affecting the adoption of artificial intelligence in Nigeria.
- v. Proffer recommendations for enhancing the utilization of AI for sustainable national development.

## **Methodology**

### **Research Design**

This study adopts a qualitative research design based on documentary and content analysis. The qualitative approach is considered appropriate because it enables an in-depth examination of existing knowledge, theories, policies, and empirical evidence relating to artificial intelligence, economic growth, and sustainable development in Nigeria. The study relies on secondary sources of data to generate insights into the opportunities and challenges associated with AI adoption and utilization.

### **Sources of Data**

Data for the study were obtained from secondary sources, including:

- i. Peer-reviewed journal articles.
- ii. Government policy documents and reports.
- iii. Publications from international organizations such as the United Nations, World Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF), and World Economic Forum.
- iv. Conference papers and working papers.
- v. Relevant books and scholarly publications on artificial intelligence, economic development, innovation, and sustainable development.
- vi. National policy frameworks relating to digital transformation and economic development in Nigeria.

These sources were selected because they provide credible and comprehensive information relevant to the study objectives.

### **Method of Data Collection**

Data were collected through extensive library and desk-based research. Relevant literature published between 2015 and 2025 was systematically reviewed to identify emerging themes regarding the application of artificial intelligence in economic and sustainable development processes. Particular attention was given to studies focusing on developing countries and the Nigerian context.

### **Method of Data Analysis**

The study employs thematic content analysis for data interpretation. Information gathered from various sources was categorized according to the objectives of the study. The analysis focused on identifying recurring themes relating to:

- i. The concept and dimensions of artificial intelligence.
- ii. The contribution of AI to economic growth.
- iii. The role of AI in sustainable development.
- iv. Challenges of AI adoption in Nigeria.
- v. Policy measures required for effective AI integration.

The thematic approach facilitated a systematic synthesis of existing literature and enabled the identification of patterns, relationships, and policy implications relevant to Nigeria's development agenda.

### **Conceptual Review**

**Artificial Intelligence:** Artificial Intelligence refers to the simulation of human intelligence by computer systems capable of learning, reasoning, and adapting to new situations. AI encompasses machine learning, natural language processing, robotics, expert systems, and predictive analytics. AI technologies enable automation of complex tasks and support data-driven decision-making processes.

**Economic Growth:** Economic growth refers to a sustained increase in a country's production of goods and services over time, commonly measured by growth in Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Economic growth is influenced by factors such as technological innovation, human capital development, investment, and institutional effectiveness.

**Sustainable Development:** Sustainable development refers to development that meets present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It integrates economic growth, social inclusion, and environmental sustainability. The concept is embodied in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

**Artificial Intelligence and Economic Growth:** Artificial Intelligence has emerged as one of the most influential technological innovations driving economic growth in the twenty-first century. Its capacity to automate tasks, process vast amounts of data, enhance decision-making, and improve operational efficiency has transformed production systems across industries. Economic growth is fundamentally influenced by factors such as technological innovation, capital accumulation, human capital development, and institutional effectiveness. AI contributes significantly to these factors by increasing productivity, reducing operational costs, improving product quality, and fostering innovation.

One of the major pathways through which AI promotes economic growth is productivity enhancement. AI technologies enable organizations to automate repetitive tasks, streamline workflows, and optimize resource utilization. Machine learning algorithms can analyze large

datasets in real time, identify patterns, and generate insights that improve organizational performance. This capability reduces human error, increases operational efficiency, and enhances competitiveness. According to Brynjolfsson and McAfee (2017), AI-driven automation has the potential to generate substantial productivity gains comparable to previous industrial revolutions. Artificial intelligence also stimulates innovation and entrepreneurship. The technology facilitates the development of new products, services, and business models capable of creating entirely new markets. Digital platforms powered by AI have transformed sectors such as e-commerce, transportation, healthcare, education, and financial services. These innovations create employment opportunities, attract investments, and contribute to national income generation. The World Economic Forum (2024) observes that AI is increasingly becoming a strategic driver of economic competitiveness and industrial transformation globally.

In Nigeria, the application of AI offers enormous opportunities for accelerating economic growth. The agricultural sector, which employs a significant proportion of the Nigerian workforce, can benefit substantially from AI-driven innovations. AI technologies can improve crop monitoring, pest detection, soil analysis, weather forecasting, and yield prediction. Precision agriculture powered by AI enables farmers to optimize resource utilization, reduce waste, and increase productivity. Through predictive analytics, farmers can make informed decisions regarding planting schedules, irrigation, fertilizer application, and harvest timing. Consequently, agricultural productivity and food production can be enhanced, contributing to economic growth and food security. The manufacturing sector also stands to benefit from AI adoption. AI-powered automation systems improve production efficiency, quality control, predictive maintenance, and supply chain management. Intelligent manufacturing systems can detect defects in products, predict equipment failures before they occur, and optimize production processes. These capabilities reduce production costs, improve product quality, and increase industrial competitiveness. As manufacturing productivity increases, economic output and export potential are expected to expand.

The financial sector represents another critical area where AI contributes to economic growth. Nigerian financial institutions increasingly utilize AI technologies for fraud detection, risk assessment, customer relationship management, and digital banking services. AI-powered financial technologies (FinTech) have facilitated financial inclusion by providing digital payment systems, mobile banking services, and automated lending platforms. These innovations have expanded access to financial services among previously underserved populations, particularly in rural communities. Enhanced financial inclusion promotes entrepreneurship, investment, and economic participation, thereby stimulating economic growth. Furthermore, AI contributes to labor market transformation through the creation of new employment opportunities. Although automation may displace certain routine jobs, AI simultaneously generates demand for highly skilled professionals such as data scientists, software engineers, machine learning specialists, cybersecurity experts, and digital innovation managers. The growth of Nigeria's technology ecosystem, particularly in innovation hubs such as Lagos and Abuja, demonstrates the increasing role of AI and digital

technologies in creating employment and attracting foreign investment. The adoption of AI also enhances decision-making in both private and public sectors. Organizations can utilize predictive analytics to anticipate market trends, consumer preferences, and business risks. Such data-driven decision-making improves organizational performance and resource allocation. Consequently, AI serves as an important catalyst for innovation, productivity enhancement, and long-term economic growth.

### **Artificial Intelligence and Sustainable Development**

Sustainable development emphasizes the achievement of economic prosperity, social inclusion, and environmental sustainability in a manner that meets present needs without compromising the welfare of future generations. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide a global framework for promoting sustainable development across various sectors. Artificial Intelligence has increasingly been recognized as a critical enabler of sustainable development due to its ability to address complex socio-economic and environmental challenges through innovative solutions. One of the most significant contributions of AI to sustainable development is its capacity to improve resource efficiency. AI systems can analyze vast quantities of environmental and socio-economic data to optimize resource allocation and utilization. Through predictive analytics and intelligent monitoring systems, governments and organizations can identify inefficiencies, reduce waste, and improve service delivery. Efficient resource utilization contributes to environmental conservation while enhancing economic productivity. Artificial intelligence plays an important role in addressing environmental challenges and climate change. Climate-related risks such as flooding, desertification, drought, and deforestation continue to threaten sustainable development in many developing countries, including Nigeria. AI-powered climate models can predict weather patterns, monitor environmental changes, and support disaster risk management initiatives. By providing accurate and timely information,

AI enables policymakers to develop effective adaptation and mitigation strategies. These capabilities are particularly important in Nigeria, where climate change poses serious threats to agriculture, water resources, and human settlements. The healthcare sector has also experienced significant transformation through AI applications. AI technologies support disease diagnosis, medical imaging, patient monitoring, drug discovery, and healthcare management. Intelligent diagnostic systems can analyze medical records and identify diseases with greater speed and accuracy than traditional methods. Telemedicine platforms powered by AI improve access to healthcare services, particularly in underserved rural communities. Improved healthcare delivery contributes directly to Sustainable Development Goal 3, which seeks to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all. Education represents another area where AI contributes to sustainable development. AI-powered learning systems facilitate personalized education by adapting instructional content to individual learners' needs and abilities. Virtual learning platforms and intelligent tutoring systems expand access to quality education, especially in remote areas where educational resources are limited. These innovations support Sustainable Development Goal 4, which emphasizes inclusive and equitable quality education. Artificial intelligence also promotes

financial inclusion, which is essential for poverty reduction and inclusive growth. Through mobile banking applications, digital payment systems, and automated credit assessment tools, AI expands access to financial services among marginalized populations.

Increased financial inclusion enhances economic participation, supports entrepreneurship, and contributes to poverty alleviation. Consequently, AI serves as a valuable instrument for achieving Sustainable Development Goal 1 on poverty eradication and Sustainable Development Goal 8 on decent work and economic growth. In agriculture, AI-enabled smart farming practices support sustainable food production while minimizing environmental degradation. Intelligent irrigation systems optimize water use, while AI-powered sensors monitor soil conditions and crop health. These technologies increase agricultural productivity without excessive exploitation of natural resources. Similarly, AI-based energy management systems facilitate efficient energy consumption and support the integration of renewable energy sources into national power systems. Such innovations contribute to environmental sustainability and climate resilience. Despite its enormous potential, the application of AI in sustainable development requires ethical governance, regulatory oversight, and equitable access to technology. Without appropriate safeguards, AI could exacerbate existing inequalities and create new socio-economic challenges. Therefore, sustainable AI deployment must prioritize inclusiveness, accountability, transparency, and social responsibility.

### **Artificial Intelligence and Public Sector Transformation**

The public sector occupies a central position in national development through its responsibility for policy formulation, governance, service delivery, and resource management. In recent years, governments worldwide have increasingly embraced digital technologies to improve administrative efficiency and public service outcomes. Artificial Intelligence has emerged as a strategic tool capable of transforming governance systems and enhancing public sector performance. One of the primary benefits of AI in the public sector is improved decision-making. Governments generate enormous amounts of data from various administrative processes, including taxation, healthcare, education, transportation, and security. AI technologies can analyze these datasets to identify trends, forecast future developments, and support evidence-based policymaking. Data-driven governance enhances policy effectiveness by ensuring that decisions are informed by reliable information rather than assumptions. Artificial intelligence also enhances public service delivery through automation and process optimization. AI-powered systems can streamline administrative procedures, reduce bureaucratic delays, and improve citizen experiences.

Chatbots and virtual assistants can provide instant responses to citizens' inquiries, reducing the workload of government personnel and improving service accessibility. Automated document processing systems increase efficiency while minimizing administrative costs. Transparency and accountability are additional areas where AI contributes to public sector transformation. AI-powered monitoring systems can track government expenditures, identify irregularities, and detect fraudulent activities. These capabilities strengthen public

financial management and promote good governance. In countries where corruption remains a significant developmental challenge, AI-based monitoring mechanisms can improve accountability and enhance public trust in government institutions. Artificial intelligence further supports security and public safety through predictive policing, surveillance systems, and emergency response management. AI technologies can analyze crime patterns, identify potential security threats, and support law enforcement agencies in maintaining public order.

Disaster management agencies can also utilize AI-powered systems for early warning, risk assessment, and emergency response coordination. The concept of smart cities illustrates the transformative potential of AI in urban governance. Smart cities utilize AI technologies to manage transportation systems, energy consumption, waste disposal, water distribution, and public infrastructure. Through real-time data collection and analysis, urban authorities can improve service delivery, reduce environmental impacts, and enhance citizens' quality of life. Given Nigeria's rapid urbanization, AI-supported smart city initiatives can contribute significantly to sustainable urban development. In the Nigerian context, AI can strengthen public administration by improving policy implementation, service delivery, revenue collection, and development planning. However, successful implementation requires investments in digital infrastructure, human capital development, institutional capacity building, and cybersecurity frameworks. The effective integration of AI into governance systems has the potential to transform public administration and accelerate national development.

## **Theoretical Framework**

### **Innovation Diffusion Theory**

This study is anchored on the Innovation Diffusion Theory developed by Everett Rogers (1962). The theory explains how innovations, technologies, and new ideas spread among individuals, organizations, and societies over time. Rogers conceptualized diffusion as the process through which an innovation is communicated through specific channels among members of a social system. According to the theory, the rate and extent of innovation adoption depend on several factors, including relative advantage, compatibility, complexity, trialability, and observability. Relative advantage refers to the degree to which an innovation is perceived as superior to existing alternatives. The greater the perceived benefits of an innovation, the higher the likelihood of its adoption. Compatibility relates to the extent to which an innovation aligns with the values, experiences, and needs of potential adopters. Complexity refers to the perceived difficulty associated with understanding and utilizing an innovation. Trialability involves the opportunity to experiment with an innovation before full adoption, while observability refers to the visibility of the innovation's benefits to others within a social system. The theory further categorizes adopters into innovators, early adopters, early majority, late majority, and laggards. These categories explain how different groups respond to technological innovations at varying rates. According to Rogers, successful diffusion requires effective communication channels, supportive institutional environments, and social acceptance of the innovation.

The Innovation Diffusion Theory is particularly relevant to this study because the adoption and utilization of Artificial Intelligence in Nigeria depend largely on how individuals, organizations, and government institutions perceive and embrace technological innovation. AI represents a relatively emerging technology within the Nigerian context, and its successful integration into economic and developmental processes requires widespread acceptance and utilization by various stakeholders. The theory provides a useful framework for understanding the factors influencing AI adoption in Nigeria. For instance, businesses are more likely to adopt AI technologies when they perceive clear economic benefits such as increased productivity, reduced operational costs, and enhanced competitiveness. Similarly, government institutions may adopt AI when its effectiveness in improving service delivery and governance outcomes becomes evident. However, challenges such as inadequate infrastructure, limited technical expertise, high implementation costs, and low digital literacy may slow the diffusion process.

Furthermore, the theory underscores the importance of policy support, awareness creation, capacity building, and institutional readiness in facilitating technological adoption. The Nigerian government's efforts to promote digital transformation, innovation ecosystems, and technological entrepreneurship can be interpreted as mechanisms for accelerating the diffusion of AI across various sectors of the economy. The application of Innovation Diffusion Theory therefore provides a robust analytical framework for examining how Artificial Intelligence can be leveraged to promote economic growth and sustainable development in Nigeria. As AI adoption becomes more widespread, its benefits are expected to diffuse across sectors, leading to increased productivity, improved governance, enhanced service delivery, and sustainable socio-economic development.

### **Challenges of Leveraging Artificial Intelligence in Nigeria**

Several challenges constrain AI adoption and utilization in Nigeria:

- i. **Inadequate Digital Infrastructure:** Poor electricity supply, inadequate broadband coverage, and limited data infrastructure hinder AI deployment and innovation.
- ii. **Limited Human Capital:** There is a shortage of AI specialists, data scientists, and digital professionals required to support technological advancement.
- iii. **Regulatory and Ethical Concerns:** Weak regulatory frameworks regarding data protection, cybersecurity, and ethical AI usage create uncertainties for investors and developers.
- iv. **Financial Constraints:** Limited investment in research and development reduces Nigeria's capacity to develop indigenous AI solutions.
- v. **Digital Divide:** Unequal access to digital technologies between urban and rural populations threatens inclusive development.
- vi. **Employment Displacement:** Automation may replace certain categories of jobs, creating concerns about unemployment and social inequality if adequate reskilling programs are not implemented.

## **Conclusion**

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has emerged as one of the most transformative technologies of the twenty-first century, offering unprecedented opportunities for economic growth, social progress, and sustainable development. In the Nigerian context, AI presents a strategic pathway for addressing many of the country's developmental challenges while simultaneously creating new opportunities for innovation, entrepreneurship, and global competitiveness. Through its application in critical sectors such as agriculture, healthcare, finance, education, manufacturing, security, and public administration, AI can significantly improve productivity, enhance decision-making processes, optimize resource utilization, and expand access to essential services. The potential benefits of AI extend beyond economic efficiency. By supporting data-driven governance, improving transparency, strengthening public service delivery, and enabling more inclusive development, AI can contribute directly to the achievement of national development goals and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). For a developing economy like Nigeria, the adoption of AI technologies can facilitate industrial transformation, create new employment opportunities in emerging sectors, and position the country as a leader in Africa's digital economy. Nevertheless, the realization of these opportunities is not automatic. Significant challenges remain, including inadequate digital infrastructure, unreliable electricity supply, limited access to quality data, insufficient investment in research and development, cybersecurity concerns, ethical issues, and a shortage of AI-skilled professionals.

Furthermore, the absence of comprehensive regulatory and governance frameworks may hinder responsible AI deployment and expose society to risks such as algorithmic bias, privacy violations, and digital exclusion. To maximize the developmental benefits of AI, Nigeria must adopt a proactive and coordinated approach. Government, private sector organizations, academic institutions, and development partners must collaborate to strengthen digital infrastructure, invest in AI education and capacity building, support innovation ecosystems, and establish robust legal and ethical frameworks for AI governance. Strategic investments in research, local content development, and public-private partnerships will be essential for ensuring that AI solutions are tailored to Nigeria's unique socioeconomic realities. In conclusion, Artificial Intelligence represents far more than a technological innovation; it is a catalyst for sustainable development and national transformation. If effectively integrated into national development strategies and supported by appropriate policies and investments, AI can accelerate economic growth, improve the quality of life of citizens, reduce developmental inequalities, and contribute significantly to Nigeria's long-term vision of inclusive and sustainable development. The future impact of AI in Nigeria will ultimately depend on the country's ability to harness its opportunities while responsibly addressing its associated challenges.

## **Recommendations**

- i. Government should invest substantially in digital infrastructure, including broadband connectivity and reliable electricity supply.
- ii. Educational institutions should integrate AI, data science, and digital technology

- courses into their curricula.
- iii. Policymakers should develop comprehensive AI governance frameworks addressing ethics, privacy, and cybersecurity.
  - iv. Public-private partnerships should be strengthened to promote AI research, innovation, and commercialization.
  - v. Targeted funding mechanisms should be established to support AI startups and technological entrepreneurship.
  - vi. Nationwide digital literacy programs should be implemented to reduce the digital divide.
  - vii. Continuous workforce reskilling initiatives should be introduced to mitigate the effects of automation on employment.

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